**Welcome to the First Sahelian Africa Congress on Bamboo and Rattan – SACOBAR, 2024!**

For the promotion of tropical bamboo and rattan purposes, the First Sahelian Africa Congress on Bamboo and Rattan - nicked SACOBAR 2024 – is an annual flagship outreach Programme of the Sahelian Institute for Bamboo Research and Entrepreneurship Development (SIBRED) at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Southeast Nigeria. This epoch-making hybrid event brings together, stakeholders from around the world to meet, discuss, network, collaborate, and exchange innovative ideas on improving and stimulating the potential that could enhance the revolutionization of the bamboo and rattan value chains in Sub-Saharan Africa and by extension the Global South horizon of the Globe.

Please join us for the **First Sahelian Africa Congress on Bamboo and Rattan (SACOBAR**), 22 – 25 May 2024.  This hybrid event will occur online and onsite at the ASUU Secretariat within the Awka Campus of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University (UNIZIK) in Southeast Nigeria.

The theme of this inaugural hybrid SACOBAR 2024 is: ‘**Bamboo and Rattan Innovations for Entrepreneurship, Livelihoods and Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA**)'.

**How to get to event venue**

UNIZIK is easily accessible by inter-state road taxis and from **Anambra Airport** (known officially as Chinua Achebe International Airport at Umueri in Anambra State) for domestic flights which can only be boarded from any of the following International Airports in Nigeria, *viz*: Abuja, Lagos Port Harcourt or Kano Airports using either **Air Peace** (<https://www.flyairpeace.com/>)  or  **United Nigeria** (<https://flyunitednigeria.com/>) airliners.

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) will arrange airport pick-up. Travel from the Chinua Achebe International Cargo Passenger Airport, Umuleri at Ivite, Umuleri 432104, Anambra to Nnamdi Azikiwe University (NAU) - **ASUU Secretariat**is a 45-minute taxi ride (see Google map screenshot below).



The hosts of the First SACOBAR 2024 are the Vice Chancellor Office of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, the Federal Department of Forestry at the Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja; and the International Network of Universities and Research Centers related to bamboo (RIUCI bamboo).

SIBRED has invited political authorities, policy authorities, university dons, diplomats, bamboo and rattan entrepreneurs, investors, and farmers from all over the world to share fruitful experiences to revolutionizing bamboo in Sub-Saharan Africa in various fields such as landscape restoration, circular economy, sustainable housing, bamboo and rattan cultivation, architecture, arts and crafts, design, community participation, Africa free trade zone and international trade and policies, environmental sustainability law and policy, remote sensing and artificial intelligence (AI) for sustainable bamboo and rattan management, etc.

This unique epoch-marking event will provide an opportunity to feature:

1. Scientific conference presentations
2. Bamboo/rattan arts and crafts exhibitions
3. Competitions relating to bamboo/rattan arts and crafts and bamboo food vendor
4. Industry technology exposition
5. Bamboo & Rattan Entrepreneurial skills Acquisition workshop for young people
6. **Delegates annual General Congress** from the 16 SIBRED’s member countries in Central and West Africa, namely: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal including countries that border the Sahelian countries such as Benin Republic, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo.
7. SIBRED's Advisory Board meeting:
   1. Chair:  Honourable Minister of Environment, Abuja
   2. Co-Chair: **Prof. Charles Okechukwu Esimone, FAS**

Vice Chancellor, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria

1. Cultural events such as musical concerts, bamboo leaves tea ceremonies, and bamboo shoot cuisine will be carefully arranged to give delegates and participants, the diversity of bamboo culture from within Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
2. All of the above listed plus a field tour to some selected SIBRED project sites and cultural arenas where the Igbo culture of Anambra State can be displayed to give international visitors a sense of intercultural diversity.

**Registration**

The event has an affordable registration cost. We plan to allow MSc and PhD students to present their Conference Preprint Papers free of charge but they will be required to seek travel scholarships if they choose to participate, onsite!

Plan now to be at this exceptional international SACOBAR 2024 event!

I look forward to welcoming you to Awka – the Seat of SIBRED.

**SIBRED: Promoting Bamboo Research For Industrial Innovation And Entrepreneurship**

Welcome from SACOBAR 2024 Planning Committees:

* **Ms. Diana Doheny - USA**

Chair, Internation Planning Committee (IPC), SACOBAR 2024

* **Ir. John Agbo Ogbodo - Nigeria**

SIBRED’s Director and

Chair, Local Organizing Committee (LOC), SACOBAR 2024

* **Dr. Adaeze N. Achugbu - Nigeria**

SIBRED’s Deputy Director and

Chair, (LOC Logistics Sub-committee)

SACOBAR 2024

* **Prof. Ejeatuluchukwu Obi - Nigeria**

Chair, (LOC Scientific Sessions Subcommittee), SACOBAR 2024

* **Mr. Pablo Jacome Estrella – Ecuador**

RIUCI Coordinator and

IPC Chair (Student Travel Fellowships Subcommittee),

SACOBAR 2024

* **Mr. Micheal Kwaku - Ghana**

INBAR West Africa Regional Director and

IPC Chair (INBAR’s Participation and Admin),

SACOBAR 2024

* **Dr. Muralidharan Enarth MAVITON - India**

Chair of INBAR Taskforce on Sustainable Bamboo Mgt. and

IPC Chair (Conference Editorial Subcommittee),

SACOBAR 2024

* **Mr. Rene Kaam - Cameroon**

INBAR Central Africa Regional Director and

IPC Chair (Participants Mobilizing and Networking Subcommittee),

SACOBAR 2024

**WEBPAGE 2**

**Themes and Subthemes**

**Theme:** Bamboo and Rattan Innovations for Entrepreneurship, Livelihoods and Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Subthemes**

1. Bamboo and rattan ecosystems for Sustainable Nature Based Solutions
2. Bamboo and rattan resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation
3. Bamboo and rattan value chains for sustainable Green Economy and livelihood improvements
4. Bamboo and rattan for wetland ecosystems and water resources management
5. Bamboo and rattan commodities laws, policies and regulations
6. Remote sensing, Artificial intelligence and digital systems/algorithms for bamboo and rattan ecosystems monitoring and management
7. Bamboo and rattan-based agroforestry for agrobiodiversity, agrosilvopastoral and sustainable food and beverages industries.
8. Bamboo and rattan-based wood technology and product processing & utilization
9. Environmental, Social and economic sustainability of Bamboo for green building construction and architectural innovations
10. Bamboo Forestry for phytoremediation, biopesticides, medicinal and pharmacological prospects
11. Bamboo polymer, bamboo bio-composites and biofuels for sustainable bioeconomy
12. Bamboo commodities and international trade and consumption
13. Bamboo and rattan-based arts and crafts for Sustainable entrepreneurship and cooperative societies
14. Rattan and Bamboo forestry education and skills development and leadership
15. Harvesting tools, primary processing and preservative treatment of bamboo and rattan
16. Genetics, tissue culture and biotechnological propagation of bamboo and rattan species
17. Public Private and Community Partnerships for Sustainable bamboo and rattan management
18. Women’s entrepreneurship in rattan and bamboo forestry: challenges and opportunities
19. Bamboo plantation and biodiversity

Webpage 3

**Registration Detail**

All registrations for SACOBAR2024 must be submitted through the online registration form.

Please note that it remains the duty of all delegates and onsite attendees to make their visa arrangements to Nigeria. Intending participants are strongly advised to initiate their visa application at the earliest convenience. For further details, we invite you to explore Nigeria’s Immigration prerequisites at <https://portal.immigration.gov.ng/?p=visaguidelines>.

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| **Timeline** | **From** | **To** | **Charge** | | |
| Nigerian | International | Member country other than Nigeria |
| Scientific Session Registration | 01 March 2024 | 15 May, 2024 | ₦30,000 | $120 | $60 |
| Entries for bamboo/rattan arts and crafts exhibitions/competitions | 01 March 2024 | 20 May, 2024 | ₦350,000 | Equivalent | Equivalent |
| Bamboo & Rattan Entrepreneurial skills Acquisition workshop | 01 March 2024 | 15 May, 2024 | ₦35,000 | $50 | $30 |
| Sidelines on display of bamboo food and beverages without arrangement for stand | 01 March 2024 | 20 May, 2024 | Free | Free | Free |
| Student Registration for Scientific Session (onsite participation: arrange for your travels and hotel accommodation) | 01 March 2024 | 15 May, 2024 | Free | Free | Free |
| Note: To be able to register as a Student or Postdoctoral researcher, individuals must present proof of full-time enrollment at a recognized university or college/polytechnic at both the time of registration and during SACOBAR 2024. | | | | | |

Currency converter: <https://www.oanda.com/currency-converter/en/>

Conference Secretariat

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| **Ms. Diana Doheny**  Chair, Internation Planning Committee (IPC), SACOBAR 2024 | **Ir. John Agbo Ogbodo**  SIBRED’s Director and  Chair, Local Organizing Committee (LOC),  SACOBAR 2024 | **Dr. Muralidharan Enarth Maviton**  Chair of INBAR Taskforce on Sustainable Bamboo Mgt. and IPC Chair (Conference Editorial Subcommittee),  SACOBAR 2024 |
|  |  |  |
| **Dr. Adaeze N. Achugbu**  SIBRED’s Deputy Director and Chair, (LOC Logistics Sub-committee)  SACOBAR 2024 | **Mr. Pablo Jacome Estrella**  RIUCI Coordinator and  IPC Chair (Student Travel Fellowships Subcommittee),  SACOBAR 2024 | **Prof. Ejeatuluchukwu Obi**  Chair, (LOC Scientific Sessions Subcommittee), SACOBAR 2024 |
|  |  |  |
| **Mr. Micheal Kwaku**  Director, INBAR West Africa Regional Office (WARO) Ghana and  IPC Chair (INBAR’s Participation and Admin),  SACOBAR 2024 | **Mrs. Alaba Adzandeh**  INBAR National Focal Point for Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja | **Mr. Rene Kaam**  Director, INBAR Central Africa Regional Office (CARO), Cameroon and  IPC Chair (Participants Mobilizing and Networking Subcommittee),  SACOBAR 2024 |

**LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

# INTERNATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

# AGENDA

1. Delegates annual General Congress from the 16 SIBRED’s member countries in Central and West Africa, namely: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal including countries that border the Sahelian countries such as Benin Republic, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo.

2. SIBRED's Advisory Board meeting:

i. Chair: Honourable Minister of Environment, Abuja

ii. Co-Chair: Vice Chancellor, UNIZIK

# SUBMIT CONFERENCE PREPRINT

Paper presentations for the scientific session will be in Preprints. Preprints with three stars of positive average rating of review will be published after conference presentation in the International Journal of Bamboo and Rattan (IJBAR).

Url: https://journals.unizik.edu.ng/ijbar/about/editorialTeam

Preprints showcasing novel research in bamboo and rattan related under the subthemes will be presented at SACOBAR 2024 as oral or poster presentations. Preprints will be chosen based on their scientific significance, relevance, data quality and methodology. Preprints should be submitted through the QEIOS Submission Portal by the specified deadlines. For a comprehensive list of submission deadlines, please consult the Preprints deadlines section below.

4. IJBAR is indexed in: Google Scholar, CrossRef, Publon/WoS (update of review) in partnership with Qeios Journal, UK, JEMS of MDPI and Boldscholar, Nigeria.

#### Preprint Submission deadlines

# exibition/competition

**CALL FOR entries**

**CONTACT**

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LOC Chair

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Prof. Nkiru T. Meludu

Exhibition and Bamboo Food Vendoring

Email