



Report from XIV World Forest Congress 2015 in Durban, South Africa

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- The fourteenth World Forestry Congress (XIV WFC), convened in Durban, South Africa from 7–11 September 2015, with nearly 4,000 participants attending the meeting, representing governments and public agencies, international organizations, the private sector, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community and indigenous organizations.
- The theme of XIV WFC was “Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future” and aimed to show that investing in forestry results in investment in people, and consequently investing in sustainable development. During the five days of plenary and thematic dialogue sessions, participants considered the role of forests in socio-economic development and food security; building resilience with forests; integrating forests and other land uses; encouraging product innovation and sustainable trade; monitoring forests for better decision making; and improving governance by building capacity.
- Other events included: the launch of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2015; providing wood energy for the future; climate financing for the future; announcing the winner of the Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award 2015; exploring the way forward for forest information, youth, community-based forestry and forest and farm organizations, and forest and land restoration.



Main Selected Outcomes from the Congress:

- The Durban Declaration that highlighted that forests are fundamental for food security and improved livelihoods and will increase the resilience of communities by providing food, as well as wood energy; sustainable forest management requires integrated approaches to land use in addressing the drivers of deforestation and conflicts over land use; forests are an essential solution to climate change adaptation and mitigation; and that greater attention to gender equality and the enthusiasm of the youth as a source of inspiration and stimulus for innovation are required for realizing the vision of forests. (download [here](#))
- Message on Climate Change from the XIV World Forestry Congress that highlight the great role forest play in climate change mitigation and how sustainable forest management would greatly contribute to the role of forest in climate change resilience. (download [here](#))

- Message from XIV World Forestry Congress to the United Nations General Assembly Summit for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (download [here](#))
- 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.
- Indigenous peoples, local communities, family smallholders have the numbers, the knowledge and are vital for the future of the world's forest.
- Intensify efforts to integrate forests and other land uses to achieve sustainable landscapes and livelihoods by: establishing mechanisms for effective integrated and cross-sectorial land-use planning; applying the landscape approach and adaptive management on the ground; maintaining effective multi stakeholder platforms; and better linking research to policy.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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



- 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.

- 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.
- 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.

Further Observations that Directly Relate to Kijani's Work:

- We should clearly highlight sustainability aspect of our model, Donors are very keen on this as they are interested in project that has a viable sustainability aspect.
- Solving forest issues should be done through dialogues involving all stakeholders
- In forest restoration its important to map the opportunities, revenue streams, water quality and ecosystem services
- There is need to map Donors on forest restoration and being tactful to achieve political will as this much affect forest restoration efforts
- We should look for creative solutions and approaches to forest restoration, this attracts donors.
- Creation of partnerships is paramount in undertaking forest restoration activities and projects
- Success stories should be established to encourage others on the good course as well as to share with the donors.
- The success of Restoration efforts should not be counted in terms of number of hectares restored but in terms of income generated, revenue and community development.



- To achieve forest restoration there is need to address underlying cause of degradation; the first step should be stop degradation then start restoration.
- There exist 2billion hectares of land worldwide in need of restoration, this is an opportunity for forest restoration organization inclusive of the fact that there is clear understanding and appreciation on the need for forest restoration
- The video I share of common land on returns of investment also explain the approaches to forest restoration and what one should expect out of a successful restoration
- NTFP should be harnessed for economic benefits of the forest to the community members
- There is urgent need to improve forestry linkages and synergies, intensify efforts to integrate forest and other land uses and establishes linkages between research and policy.
- Poverty alleviation should be at the center when dealing with community members and forest restoration.
- Community needs to be in the forefront in forest restoration and sustainable forest management (Bottom approach)
- NTFP are one type of forest ecosystems service payment for which can help reduce both poverty and deforestation
- For many NTFPs the value chain is not well developed, more value adding at the local level along with better marketing could provide forest based communities with significant effects.



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