



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

for food security and nutrition

E-Magazine

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THE EVOLVING ROLE OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND LIVELIHOODS IN A CHANGING WORLD

Juha Marttila

PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL UNION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND FOREST OWNERS (MTK) AND D. SC. (AGR.&FOR.).



Have you noticed that there are many changes on the air at the moment? Climate change, rapid growth of population, increasing demand for energy and diminishing of natural resources among others forces us to change our behavior in many ways. During the next ten, twenty years there will be a need for more food, water and energy which means that we need to pay attention to issues and decisions to be done today. We are on our way towards the world of bio economy from the fossil society which means that we need to change our way of thinking and regard nature as a long-time partner.

The aim of bio economy is to decrease our dependence of non-renewable natural resources. Forests have an important role in bio economy. Forests play a key role when bio economy is developing from fossil fuels to bio-based energy and into more bio-based materials in many industrial fields. Forest based ecosystem services provide many services and products such as berries, mushrooms and water, they balance water flows and they both bind and circulate nutrient and water. In addition to all these, forests are valuable for leisure time and both mental and physical welfare. And here is just few to mention to.

Bioeconomic is nothing new: we use bio-based products and live in wooden houses. The news in bio economy come from new innovations. Forest-based bio economy means innovations which can be refined from biomass in industries such as chemistry, energy and food.

Since there are many production possibilities for wood-based materials also the final products differ. Today it is possible to produce i.e. wood-based tissues, medicine, hygiene products and even food not to even think what the future brings. Nobody could have ever imagined some time ago

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**Forest-based
bio economy
means
innovation**

that if one added fibril cellulose into yoghurt it can reduce cholesterol level. Now is an excellent time to be creative and tryout new things!

The most important asset in the change to the world of bio economy is sustainable forest management. It means that forests are taken sustainably care of in economical, environmental and social dimensions: in a long-run if the sustainability of any of these is zero none of the other dimensions does not actualize. Balancing these three elements is the main point of sustainable forest management. Sustainable forest management secures not only natural diversity in forests but also possibilities of living and livelihoods which are based on natural resources for today's and future generations without harming ecosystems.

The principles of sustainable forest management were already accepted in Rio 1992 and a year later Helsinki Criteria were accepted in a Pan-European Ministerial Conference. Criteria take into account i.e. principles of biodiversity. In my own country, Finland, like in many other countries as well sustainable forest management is explained and guaranteed in a national Forest Act. European Union, however, does not - and hopefully will not either - have a common forest policy but EU takes part in forest related edicts such as FLEGT and REDD.

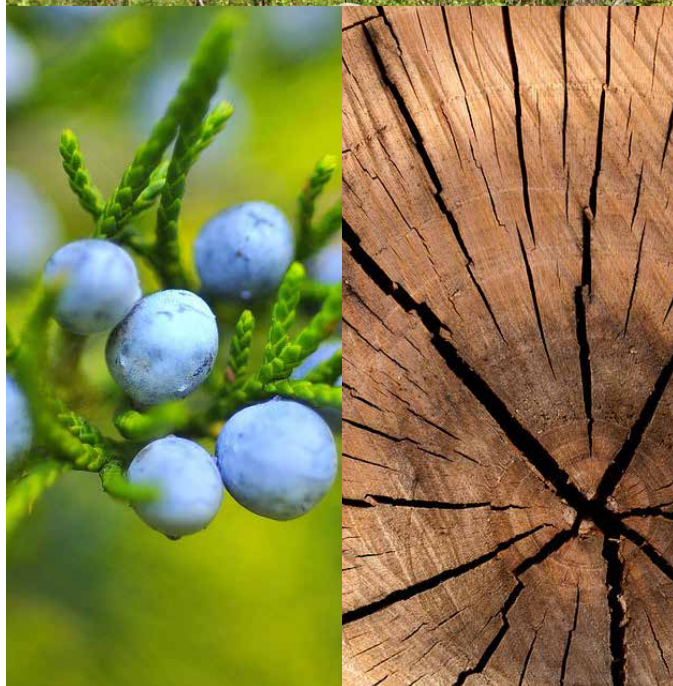
Sustainable forest management is based on criteria and indicators in order to define, guide, monitor and assess progress towards sustainably managed forests. Decision making must be kept on a national level.

Thanks to sustainable forest management the amount of wood has increased in Europe: in Finland it has doubled. Even if felling of timber is increasing, according to many researches, forests remain as remarkable carbon sink. Sustainable forest management can increase both forest stock and production of forest products. Both increase carbon storages replace and reduce greenhouse gases. Increased production of forest products improves livelihoods and increases the financing available for further improvements in sustainable forest management.

Sustainable forest management has a very strong connection to family forestry. Family forests are forests which are owned by individuals and families and which pass from one generation to the next through inheritance. They are characterized by having multiple values and functions. Over-generational thinking guarantees that the needs of future generations are constantly borne in mind and the forest holding is handed down to the next generation in a further improved condition.



**SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT
HAS A VERY STRONG CONNECTION
TO FAMILY FORESTRY.**



“

So, next time you are in a forest
be selfish:
ten minutes means your blood
pressure lowers and your pulse
becomes even, in twenty minutes
you realize how your mood rises,
in an hour your attention gets
better and in two hours your body
functions heals.

”

Today there is no longer a typical forest owner and the size of family forests varies from 0.5 to even 10 000 hectares. However, in many cases family forestry refers to a small scale forestry which is based on personal involvement and strong stewardship values. Family forest owners live usually close to their forests and forestry can also provide jobs to other people. All this means that rural areas are kept alive and inhabited.

Private forests provide various benefits and services to the society. Locally controlled forestry is an important tool through land tenure reforms, efficient forest producer organizations and market access for products from sustainably managed forests. Improving livelihoods, sustainably managing forests and fighting climate change must not be treated as separate problems, requiring distinct solutions. If that approach is taken there is a big risk that the separate solutions will undermine each other.

It is beneficial for family forestry to get organized: little strokes fell great oaks. In many countries states or big industries own majority of forests and for a family forestry it might be a problem to sell its wood. Being organized brings more power and possibilities to sell wood and take care of forest owners' rights. The power of these organizations is in lobbying, promoting and protecting family forestry.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OF 3,9 BILLION HECTARES OF FORESTS IN THE WORLD I.E. 86 PERCENT IS PRIVATELY OWNED.

It is very hard to have the exact amount of private forest owners but i.e. International Family Forest Alliance (IFFA) represents around the world more than 25 million private forest owners, mainly family forestry. In the European level Confédération Européenne des Propriétaires Forestiers (CEPF) represents 16 million forest owners.

THE CENTRAL UNION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND FOREST OWNERS (MTK) REPRESENT SMALL SCALE FOREST OWNERS IN FINLAND: THERE ARE OVER 600 000 FOREST OWNERS IN FINLAND WHICH MEANS THAT EVERY TENTH FINN OWNS FOREST.

We are truly living interesting times. We have possibilities to make our forest to nourish and provide livelihood to people: what we cannot do is to ignore the process. Forests are fundamental to us, they have always been. They have provided us wood, firewood, food, shelter and relaxation and they still do this. They battle for us against climate change and they provide welfare. Forests can provide farmers extra income by providing green care services and locally produced food. And according to of everyone's Right, the forests and waters are free for everyone to visit and enjoy.

FINDING GOOD FOOD IN THE FOREST

Deanna Ramsay

GLOBAL PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS
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The recipe for *dokoum*, or croquettes made from the wild temple plant, calls for the fresh leaves of *Crataeva religiosa*, salt, potash and water. The leaves are placed in salted boiling water for 20 minutes together with the potash, then drained, cooked again and formed into balls. Shea butter is a good accompaniment.

Another for a sauce includes the dried leaves of the native African *baobab* tree, shea butter, fermented sorghum and chili peppers. The sorghum is soaked in water with the chilis, and the rest of the ingredients are added and cooked until the sauce is thick and ready to eat.

Emerging from the efforts of Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) scientists and their partners, the collection of indigenous recipes from forest vegetables collected in 10 villages in the Dagara region of Burkina Faso unveils the diversity of foods available from the forest.

Scientists working in the area since 2013 have been striving to increase awareness about the vast ecological knowledge of local communities. This includes documenting the range of foods available in traditional diets and [the extent of peoples' dependence on forests and trees](#) – with the goal to renew appreciation for wild foods, enhance sustainable food production, communicate the value of forests for local food security and, ultimately, to improve diets.

In Ethiopia, researchers collected 218 food plant species and in Burkina Faso 494 specimens, detailing local and scientific names, plant descriptions, habitat and use information. In Zambia, they found that caterpillars from forests are a key source of micronutrients for local communities during the lean season.

CIFOR's work on forests and food across the globe is engaging with food and sustainability on many levels, recognizing food's cultural, environmental and nutritional value. Pointedly, [research](#) has found that an increase in income for rural communities does not necessarily correspond to an improvement in diet.



Photo Credit: CIFOR

For example, if an area is subject to deforestation and crops like rice or corn are planted instead, fruit trees, vegetables and hunting options are likely sacrificed. Caloric intake may increase, but overall diet quality may decline with increased spending power going to processed foods like instant noodles, in the case of Indonesia.

Researchers are finding that many forest foods are providing essential nutrients like zinc and vitamin A to local diets. For example, *kama*, a green vegetable found in forests in Benishangul-Gumuz, Ethiopia, provides local communities with high amounts of iron and potassium and is the most commonly eaten vegetable in the study area. In southwest Burkina Faso where *baobab* leaves are perhaps the best known, communities use a wide variety of leaves from trees in their diets. Several are high in key minerals and vitamins.

In addition, in some of their research sites, communities get the majority of their animal source foods from the forest.

In Africa, [researchers found](#) that the diets of children living near forests were better than those living in less forested landscapes. Analyzing the dietary intakes of 93,000 children from across the continent, they looked at dietary diversity, consumption of fruit and vegetables and consumption of animal products. They posit that low-income households in rural forested regions often farm their own food or obtain fruits and nuts from the surrounding forests, thereby supporting a higher quality diet than households where there is less space to farm or find food.

They had similar results in Indonesia – where micronutrient deficiency remains a serious problem – looking at children’s diets and finding that those living in tree-dominated landscapes in some provinces had healthier diets than children living in the same regions without trees.

The [study](#) examined how often children ate from micronutrient-rich food groups, based on data from a demographic health survey. Their most striking result was found in West Kalimantan, where diets were found to be far healthier for kids living near swidden and agroforestry landscapes.

Through work that exposes such a seeming contradiction, CIFOR’s forests and food project offers a fresh conservation angle that directly connects to health.

Where there is greater deforestation, people’s diets – and trees – may pay the price.

One CIFOR study in south Cameroon suggests that conversion of land to palm oil is threatening local food security. While some smallholder producers of palm oil welcomed the conversion to the high-yield crop, others were unable to profit from it, and with limited income, found it difficult to access food.

As scientists continue their work, they are looking deeper into these unforeseen consequences on diets.

The recipes obtained from Burkina Faso are often simple, with foraged vegetables boiled in salt water and drained. Yet the range of vegetables available is where the complexity and diversity lies, with such staples as *soumbala*, a sauce that takes several days to prepare and involves fermented seeds, and a malt made from sorghum replete with necessary nutrients.

As they pursue their research in such disparate landscapes as the miombo forests of Zambia or the oil palm-covered terrain of Borneo, CIFOR scientists are continuing to look at people’s relationship to forests and the foods they find there – developing an even deeper understanding that food and forests go hand and hand.





Photo Credit: CIFOR

BUILDING FUNCTIONAL FORESTS THAT HELP INDIAN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES THRIVE

Bernard Giraud

PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER OF
LIVELIHOODS VENTURE,
FARMING FIRST SUPPORTER

The Adivasi people, living in the Araku Valley in Eastern India, are considered some of the most disadvantaged in the country. Once a community that lived off the forests, the erosion and degradation of the land during the British settlements left them in poverty and with few land rights. The marginalized area – with an altitude of 1200m and average annual rainfall of 1300mm – was characterized by low women’s literacy rates, high infant and maternal mortality, and low agricultural productivity.

So when the Naandi foundation arrived in the valley 17 years ago to help develop traditional coffee production, it quickly became apparent that the struggles of the Adivasi tribes – from health and nutrition to livelihoods and productivity - were rooted in the loss of the forest. To address this, Naandi developed the “Araku Way” as a way of rebuilding the forest. Through a holistic approach where farming is linked to education and community bonds, the NGO focused on land productivity, crop and pest management as well as market connection. And with the support of the Livelihoods Carbon Fund, the Naandi foundation was able to scale up its activities and co-build an agroforestry component to reach 100,000 people in 300 villages.

Food and income grow on trees

Within the Livelihoods-Araku project, the communities themselves have planted three million fruit trees to restore their degraded forests and an additional three million coffee plants for income. Grown in local tree nurseries, the saplings were distributed in the villages. Together with forest engineers, the communities decided on the plots to be replanted and were involved at all the steps of the project. Naandi trained 14,000 farmers on sustainable farming practices to enable them take good care of their trees and soil while preserving their fragile ecosystem. They also learned to produce their own compost to increase land productivity and manage pests and diseases without chemical products.

This way, the Adivasi tribes were able to diversify their crop portfolio with 18 varieties of fruit trees per acre, increasing their food security and also their income with the sale of extra fruits. After years of care and attention, mango trees are bearing their first fruits and soon, the communities will be able to produce 12,000 tons of mangoes per year for the



Photo Credit: Helleo-Vaningen/ Livelihoods Funds

local market. And thanks to the millions of coffee trees planted some years ago, the communities are now producing a high quality organic coffee. Organized into “Small and Marginal Tribal Farmers’ Cooperatives”, they sell their coffee directly to consumers and the first Araku Coffee store is now open in Paris. For communities that had been completely isolated on a few years earlier, this marked an incredible achievement. From previously degraded lands, the restored forest is now providing the Adivasi with food and income.

Support from committed companies

The restoration of 6,000ha of degraded lands has also provided shelter and food for wildlife and particularly endemic birds. Moreover, the trees planted by the communities will sequester around a million tons of carbon dioxide over 20 years. The project will be monitored during that time span to

guarantee that it is delivering expected results for the environment and for the communities. Such a project over such a long period is made possible thanks to the deep commitment of the 10 companies supporting the Livelihoods Carbon Fund: Danone, Groupe Caisse des Dépôts, Crédit Agricole SA, Firmenich, Hermès, La Poste, Michelin, Schneider Electric, SAP & Voyageurs du Monde. These companies bear the investment risk for implementing large-scale projects in developing countries to link their sustainability transformation with social, environmental and economic impact for rural communities. They indeed rely on the Livelihoods Funds to generate carbon credits with high social and environmental value for them to offset part of the emissions they cannot avoid. The Livelihoods Carbon Fund has eight other ongoing projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America and it positively impacts the lives of a million people.



Learn more about the Livelihoods-Araku project
and the Livelihoods Carbon Fund:

www.livelihoods.eu/



Photo Credit: Hellio-Vaningen/ Livelihoods Funds

ASSESSING THE ISSUES AND PROSPECTS OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY IN NIGERIA

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Background Information

Globally, climate change is one of the most serious environmental threats facing humankind. The fortunes of humanity and the future of all humans (whether rich or poor; born or unborn generations) in every corner of the World could have become closely intertwined with the realities of climate change (FAO, 2016). This is because, many aspects of planet Earth, are changing mainly due to anthropogenic activities (World Bank, 2012;); thereby raising climate change issues for social and environmental sustainability (IISD, 2015; UNEP, 2011).

Over the last decades, tropical forests are at alarming risks of depletion (FAO, 2011). The danger of depleting tropical forests is that, it does not only contribute to biodiversity loss but also, to loss of forest-biomass and the related increase of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the atmosphere (World Bank, 2012; IPCC, 2003). Such a trend further exacerbates the effects of climate change, over time (Ogbodo et al., 2015; UNEP, 2015). Therefore, the research objective of this study is to x-ray the current impacts of climate change on sustainable forestry in Nigeria, covering the period: 1999 (the year in which Nigeria returned to democratic governance from over one-and-a-half decades of military rule) to Year 2017 (implementations of nationally determined contributions under the Paris Climate Change Agreement; and the SDGs targets have both commenced around the Globe). The outcome of this research is to proof that sustainable forestry can contribute to curbing food insecurity and attaining green and resilient economy in Nigeria by 2030. This paper is organized into five sections.

Overview of vegetation resource base of Nigeria

Statistically, Nigerian forest reserves cover 4.2% of the country's landmass while the remaining percentage comprises of savannah, Montane vegetation, agricultural crops and bare soils (Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Environment, 2010). According to ITTO (2017a), Nigeria has an estimated Protected Forest Estates (PFEs) of 4.11 million hectares, comprising 2.72 million hectares of natural production forest, 1.01 million hectares of protection forest and 375,000 hectares of planted forests. Nigeria currently has seven National Parks (NP) (USAID, 2008) with a total forest area of 4,293,800 hectares (Larinde and Chima 2014). Likewise, IUCN (In

ternational Union for Conservation of Nature) lists 25 games reserves in Nigeria and which are under the varying control of states governments (USAID, 2008).

Issues and opportunities of sustainable forestry in Nigeria

Sustainable forest management in Nigeria is being plagued with many challenges:

1. The country's forest vegetation declines due to deliberate removal of trees to pave way for mineral exploitation, urban sprawl, agricultural expansion and infrastructural development (Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Environment, 2010). One of the infrastructures that drives deforestation, is building of structures in public universities (especially, those situated in the southern part - the rainforest hub - of Nigeria); and largely financed by Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund¹). Given that billions of naira (N) have been spent on replacing forestland with buildings such as lecture theatres, administrative blocks, hotels, etc. (here, emphasis is on the 0.5 ha threshold in Marrakesh Accords forest definition²) in public universities by TETFund; there is however, no

¹ TETFund is a major financier of tertiary educational sub-sector in Nigeria.

² According to the Marrakesh Accords, forest is defined as an area of land that has more than 0.5 hectares, contain trees that are at least 2 - 5 meters high at maturity; and a canopy cover of more than 10 per cent (IPCC, 2003).



Photo Credit: Pst. Qrissterberg Amua

Tree planting exercises by university communities:
The pioneer Vice Chancellor of Federal University Dutsinma (FUDMA), Katsina State, Prof. James O.I. Ayatse led FUDMA community to planting trees at the university's permanent site, towards ensuring a healthy environment for Nigerian children including miss & master Amua.



Photo Credit: Sussie-Green Kwaghdoo

Tree planting exercises by university communities:
The pioneer Vice Chancellor of University of Agriculture Makurdi, led staff and students to plant trees in commemoration of 2016 World Environment Day at the University Plantation site in Makurdi, Benue State.

record showing: (i) a TETFund-sponsored afforestation project in the country nor (ii) has any forestry-related proposal been awarded a grant in the last disbursements from TETFund National Research Fund (NRF)³. The foregoing scenario negates the principle of sustainable development. Brundtland Report defines sustainable development as a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future human generations to meet their own needs (IISD, 2015). To buttress the objective of sustainable development, very few Vice Chancellors have recognized the roles of tree planting in curbing desertification and climate change menace (Figure 1).

2. Insurgency and militancy are a twin-problem that limits sustainable forestry in Nigeria. Larinde and Chima (2014) expressed that, insurgents (e.g. Boko Haram sect), militants (e.g. Niger Delta and Avengers and Fulani militants (killing farmers in the north central zone of Nigeria) are criminal elements, who usually set-up their operations base within dense forests. The implications for these unfolding situation are that, (a) the social and economic values for people living around danger-zone forests are limited; and (b) intense combats between military forces and insurgents/militants result into forest degradation. Forest degradation has direct impacts on global warming (World Bank, 2012).

3. One among other constraints competing against sustainable forestry in Nigeria, is unsustainable agriculture (GEF-UNDP, 2015; FAO, 2010; Flaherty et al., 2010). Agricultural expansions most often lead to deforestation of the tropical rainforests/savannah woodlands of Nigeria (FAO, 2016) and contributes to climate change (World Bank, 2012). To halt this challenge in Nigeria, the federal government designed a climate-smart (contemporary innovations and clean technologies) agricultural plan, between 2000 and 2002, for the country. To execute the plan, the government partnered with the Songhai⁴ Agricultural Center, Porto Novo (Republic of Benin) and this partnership led to the establishment of Songhai training centers by the following state governments: Ebony, Enugu, Delta, Imo, Lagos, Ondo, Rivers and Katsina (Daily Trust Newspaper, April 21, 2016). However, the Songhai Nigeria approach is now neglected by the subsequent state administrations (Daily Trust Newspaper, April 21, 2016).

4. Nonetheless, the percentage forest area of Nigeria for 2004 - 2015 (Table 1) indicate a decline from 12.60% (2004) to 7.70% (2015). This outcome shows that the percentage of forest area in Nigeria falls below the FAO's recommended 25% (minimum threshold) of national forest area coverage (UNEP and IUFRO, 1998). Also from Table 1,

³ NRF beneficiary lists: 2013 available at (<http://scannewsnigeria.com/education/fg-disburses-2-6-billion-to-ist-batch-beneficiaries-of-tetfund-national-research-fund/>) and 2015 (<http://www.tetfund.gov.ng/images/PDF/ListofNRF.pdf>).

⁴ Songhai Benin Center was established since 1985 and it is headquartered in Porto Novo, Republic of Benin. Songhai Benin has recorded some remarkable achievements, majorly in two areas: (i) provision of climate-smart commercial agriculture and (ii) youth training/empowerment on modern agricultural techniques to ensure climate change adaptation and mitigation in rural communities (Songhai, 2010).

the percentage forest change for Nigeria is -3.56% (2004) and - 5.53% (2015). These negative values depict deforestation rates. Historically, especially in the early years of independence, Nigeria was regarded as a high timber producing country (ITTO, 2017a). During this period, Nigeria was an active member of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). ITTO promotes sustainable forest management and forest conservation and assists tropical member countries to adapt policies to local circumstances (ITTO, 2017c). Currently, Nigeria is no longer listed as an ITTO member (ITTO, 2017b). ITTO membership would have assisted the government to source some funding for forestry projects and other action aimed at developing forest-related industries and for capacity buildings.

NIGERIA'S PERCENTAGE OF FOREST AREA AND PERCENTAGE FOREST CHANGE, 2004 - 2015		
YEAR	FOREST AREA COVER (%)	FOREST CHANGE (%)
2015	7.7	-5.53
2014	8.1	-5.24
2013	8.6	-4.98
2012	9.0	-4.75
2011	9.5	-4.53
2010	9.9	-4.33
2009	10.4	-4.15
2008	10.8	-3.99
2007	11.3	-3.84
2006	11.7	-3.69
2005	12.2	-3.56
2004	12.6	

SOURCE: Knoema World Data Atlas (2017).

The afore-mentioned challenge on national forest area change, is largely due to governance constraint. This limitation is evidently influenced by the absence of requisite information (i.e. lack of state-of-the-art information on forest conservation). A state-of-the-art information in forestry is frequently required for: effective surveillance, monitoring and control; public and private sectors' investments in forestry – related programs; effective transition to green economy in societies; and achieving a Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) (FAO, 2016).

Building a new forestry future for Nigeria

1. Furthermore, the International Arrangement on forests as well as the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Change Agreement; all aims at promoting the sustainable use of forest resources in countries of the World. Accordingly, the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) was established in 2006 as an environmental regulatory agency in Nigeria (NESREA, 2006). NESREA enforces regulations that bother on climate change and sustainable forestry. Currently, the following seven NESREA regulations bothers on sustainable forest-

ry: (a) National Environmental (Protection of watershed, mountainous, hilly and catchment areas) Regulations 2009; (b) National Environmental (Wetlands, riverbank and Lakeshore protection) Regulations 2009; (c) National Environmental (Access to genetic resources and benefits sharing) Regulations 2009; (d) National Environmental (Control of bush/forest fire and open burning) Regulations 2011; (e) National Environmental (Protection of Endangered Species in International Trade) Regulations 2011; (f) National Environmental (Coastal and marine area protection) Regulations 2011; and (g) National Environmental (Desertification control and drought mitigation) Regulations 2011. There are penalties for violating any of the afore-listed Regulations. Besides going to jail with convictions ranging from 6 – 84 months (i.e. 7 years) depending on the gravity of the offense; the possible stipulated fines range from: (i) N50,000.00 (\$157.72) to N2,000,000.00 (\$6,308.75) for individual culprits; and (ii) N5,000,000.00 (\$15,771.90) to N200,000,000.00 (\$630,875.00); for corporate bodies.

2. To create a country which is more resilient to the foregoing human-induced challenges, it is necessary to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change; with a view to shielding vulnerable Nigerian populations from its consequences. Hence, four success stories are illustrated hereunder.

- UN-REDD+ project in Cross River National Park (CRNP), Nigeria: The first ever REDD+ implementation in Nigeria is ongoing at the Cross River National Park (CRNP). The duration is a two and a half years project. The goal of this Programme is to enable Nigeria to contribute to climate change mitigation through improved forest conservation and enhancing sustainable community livelihoods (GEF-UNDP, 2015).
- UNDP mangrove forest restoration project in the Niger Delta of Nigeria: The United Nations Development Programme has in 2016, commenced the cultivation of new mangrove trees across the vast depleted swamps of Mogho community in Ogoni Kingdom. The project objective is to enhance the restoration of the lost flora and fauna towards ensuring biodiversity conservation for both economic and environmental benefits of host communities (Punch Newspaper, February 5, 2017).
- Establishment of Great Green Wall as a defense against climate change: In Nigeria, the Great Green Wall project has begun in the following eleven northern states: Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara. These locations are the desertification frontline states in Nigeria. The project details can be found in NIGERIA-GGWSAP (2012).
- EU/Oxfam project on improving of fuelwood balance project: A project: 'improving the fuelwood balances' is currently being executed in Katsina State, northwest Nigeria. Its goal is to improve the fuelwood balance and resilience of livelihoods in the project area. The project is co-funded by the European Union, OXFAM international

and International Center for Energy, Environment and Development (ICEED) and contracted by the National Planning Commission of Nigeria. Detail of the project are available here: <http://fuwobakatsina.org/about/>.

Conclusion and recommendation

This paper outlined and related four challenges to five prospects for a sustainable forestry in Nigeria. Overall, the scale

of the challenge is great and it includes: deforestation, lack of spatial information/data, non-funding, and abandonment of climate-smart agriculture (e.g. Songhai Nigeria Initiative) by subsequent states administrations. The recommendation here is that, forestry stakeholders (state and non-state actors) should commission a future research on *the spending (funding) investment and capacity trends in forestry research and development*; towards determining forest sustainability status in Nigeria.



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AT HOME AND ABROAD

“ **Forestry and forest based industry is important to Norway. Both Norwegian authorities, forest owners and the industry are committed to manage the forests sustainably. Forest owners, through their cooperatives, have taken the initiative to voluntary conservation, certification and sustainable management of the forests. This ensures the coming generations an extra income to the family farm, contributing to food security and nutrition. The feed industry, partly owned by the farmers, have signed a pledge to source soy only from deforestation free production. The government has followed suit and become the first government in the world to commit to zero deforestation. Hopefully this will contribute to food security and nutrition in the exporting country.** ”

Hildegunn Gjengedal
NORWEGIAN FARMERS' UNION

Ellen Alfsen
THE NORWEGIAN FOREST OWNERS'
FEDERATION AND DENOFA

But let us start at home. Forests cover about 40 percent of Norway's land area, or about 122.000 square kilometres. After a long period of sus-

tainable commercial extraction and long term investments, the timber volume in Norwegian forests has tripled over the past 100 years - from 300 million cubic meters in 1919 to about 900 million today. The trees have become taller and the forests denser - and they cover an area larger than ever before.

The main tree species by volume and economic importance are spruce, pine and birch. Active and profitable forestry and a competitive forest industry is of great importance for settlement, employment and business development in large parts of the country. Around 25 000 people (of a total population of 5 million) are employed in the forest based value chain. The forest industry adds more than tenfold to the value of the log as it is processed. The potential for increased value creation is large.

An essential part of family farming

Norwegian forestry is closely connected to family farming and cooperatives. 80% of the forest is owned by private persons. 80-85% of the timber for industrial use comes from family owned woods connected to forest owners' cooperatives. The timber cooperatives were formed about a hundred years ago by family forest owners. This gave the seller more power and better prices.

Forest Act and forest certification

The use of Norwegian forest is regulated under the Forest Act. The aim of the Act is to facilitate sustainable resource management, where harvesting does not exceed the regrowth rate, to secure biological diversity, landscape, recreation for people and cultural values in the forest and develop forests as storage and sinks of carbon. When felling timber, forest owners in Norway are required to promote the regrowth of new forest - either by planting, or by leaving seed trees to provide natural regeneration. Norway was first in the world to map the relationship between density and regrowth - as early as in 1919. More or less all of the Norwegian forest is part of a certification scheme. Norway was in year 2000 one of the first countries in the world to join the world's biggest certification organisation, PEFC. Through the system the forest owner has to comply with 27 demands, including how to cut the forest, and protection of biological diversity.

The forest owners' cooperative has also taken the initiative to create a voluntary conservation scheme. Last year the Parliament decided on a target to strictly protect 10% of the Norwegian forest, partly through voluntary protection, partly through protection of publicly owned forest.

Absorbs half of the CO2 emissions

Annually, Norwegian forests absorb 30,8 million tons of CO2. This is about 50% of the Norwegian emissions of climate gases. Worldwide forests and non-urban areas consume 25 percent of total global CO2 emissions.

Norway has chosen to link up to the EU emission reduction scheme for climate gases. This could have a major impact on farming and forestry in Norway. It is essential to the Norwegian forest owners and farmers that the policies adapted allows for a vibrant and sustainable food production and forestry also into the future. The forest sector must be seen in a holistic and long term manner, acknowledging the whole mitigation potential. Policies should allow for active forestry also in forest rich countries, not only focusing in afforestation. It would be unfortunate if those countries enhancing removals by sinks and providing significant climate benefit through sustainable forest management would be penalized by inappropriate accounting rules.

Wood as renewable raw material – timber fed salmon?

Increased use of wood as a renewable raw material is also an important part of the climate solution.

Wood is part of the natural carbon cycle. Wooden buildings and other wood products contribute to long-term storage of carbon throughout their product life, and when discarded they may fuel bioenergy production. Raw material from the forest is the most substantial source of raw material for bioenergy use. In 2014 the consumption of bioenergy in Norway was 14 TWh. The potential of using also tops and branches today left on the ground, is estimated to 6-7 TWh.

Wood can replace non-renewable construction materials, or materials that leave a larger carbon footprint. Wood based solutions in construction can lower CO₂ emissions by 50%, according to a new report by the Nordic council of ministers. Wood can also replace petroleum-based fuels, solid fuels, and raw materials used in a wide range of products.

Both wood and oil actually consist largely of the chemical element carbon. Replacing “black carbons” with “green carbons” can benefit both the economy as well as the climate.

Everything currently made from petroleum, could in the future be made from wood.

The use of timber as a raw material for fish and farm animal feed is now being tested out, connecting forestry and food security. Wood based pharmaceuticals and jet fuel are among other nordic examples. The Nordic region has a great potential of replacing fossil-based and artificial resources with bio-based production. We build wooden houses, we are renowned for our wooden furniture, and are exploring ways of producing sustainable textiles from wood residues.

Sustainable forestry in other parts of the world – soya as an example

Through imports, Norwegian society also has a responsibility for sustainable forestry in other parts of the world. Norway funds forest conservation projects and human rights programmes for forest communities. Last year Norway became the first country in the world to commit to zero deforestation. But private companies started earlier. In 2015 feed com-

pany Denofa, accompanied by feed cooperatives Felleskjøpet Agri, Felleskjøpet Rogaland Agder, and feed companies Norgesfôr and Fiskå Mølle, signed a pledge to source soy only from deforestation free production. They pledged to respect human rights, workers' rights, to work against all forms of corruption and for inclusive regional development. In September 2014 the Norwegian government called on Norwegian businesses to sign the UN declaration on Forests. Norwegian animal feed producers and Denofa signed. Late in 2014 Denofa and the founder of Earth Innovation Institute, Daniel Nepstad met to draft a possible way to enhance the sustainability of the soy supply chain from Brazil to Norway. In January 2015 the Minister of Climate and Environment and Denofa committed to a public-private dialogue on the sustainability of soy, and specifically on how to halt the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest. The private-public partnership ran from January 2015 between the Norwegian climate team, NICFI and the private sector under the umbrella of The Corporation of Norwegian Industries (NHO mat og drikk) – all of the Norwegian animal feed producers Felleskjøpet Agri, Felleskjøpet Rogaland Agder, Norgesfôr, Fiskaa Mølle as well as soy processor, Denofa. Also the Rainforest Foundation of Norway took part in the talks, which led to the launch of “The Norwegian commitments on sustainable soy and forests”.



<http://www.denofa.com/admin/common/getImg.asp?FileId=1209>

Contrary to many international companies' commitments to future sustainability visions, the Norwegian Commitment was agri-business wide, supported by some of the largest food producers of Norway (of which the largest dairy and meat producers are farmer owned coops) and by the Government – and it was implemented on the day of signing. Thus, from October 2015 Norwegian agriculture and agriculture based food production soy supply chain was zero deforestation and imports from rainforest countries 100% sustainability certified. The commitment was made an integral part of the signatories' soy purchasing contracts, and thus legally binding. In no other country in the world an entire industry went thus far in their efforts to protect the world's natural forests.

Conclusions: THE FOREST NEEDS TO BE USED!

To Norwegian forest owners sustainable forestry is a prerequisite to keep the forest a stable income for generations to come. Regulations, certifications and voluntary conservation are important tools. But we must never forget that the forest must be used. What gives the best uptake of climate gases is not a passive conservation of the forest, but active use. The forest is a vital source for renewable and environmental friendly materials and energy, giving extra income to the farmer, and thereby enabling food security and nutrition.



FORESTS AND FIELDS ARE CARBON ABSORBERS

Kati Partanen

FARMER, M.SC (AGRICULTURE)

MEMBER OF THE BOARD IN MTK (CENTRAL UNION OF
AGRICULTURE PRODUCERS AND FOREST OWNERS)

FACILITATOR OF THE WFO WOMEN'S COMMITTEE
(WORLD FARMERS ORGANISATION)



If I plant a pine or spruce, the most common tree species in Nordic countries, today, my grandchildren can cut it and use as log for construction. When I'm doing final cutting for forest for logs, it was my grandparents who planted the tree. Both them and my parents have been taking care of it for decades.

Well growing forests as carbon sink has not been born by chance, they have required planning and work and long-term investments.

Growing forests absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere. Forest carbon cycle is a real cycle, as the CO₂ absorbed by the trees is stored in forests or wood products. If the forest is burned or trees decayed, it releases carbon, which it has been sequestered during its growth. Fossil fuels doesn't give a chance for this kind of carbon cycle.

In my farm forestry is very important. Planning is important part of the forest management and we make forestry plan together with forestry advisor every ten years. Forestry plan is a handbook, an action plan, where we can see the amount of wood in the forestry farm, needs for forestry activities (e.g. maintenance of saplings, need for thinning etc.) and the possibilities to sell the wood. The aim is to have balanced distribution of forests with different ages, possibility for stable income also in the future and biodiversity. With this kind of planning the carbon sequestration keeps on good level, and cuttings will not exceed annual growth in the long term.

Growing forests are important help mitigating climate change as they cool down the climate. In Europe forest resources are increasing as the annual harvest is clearly

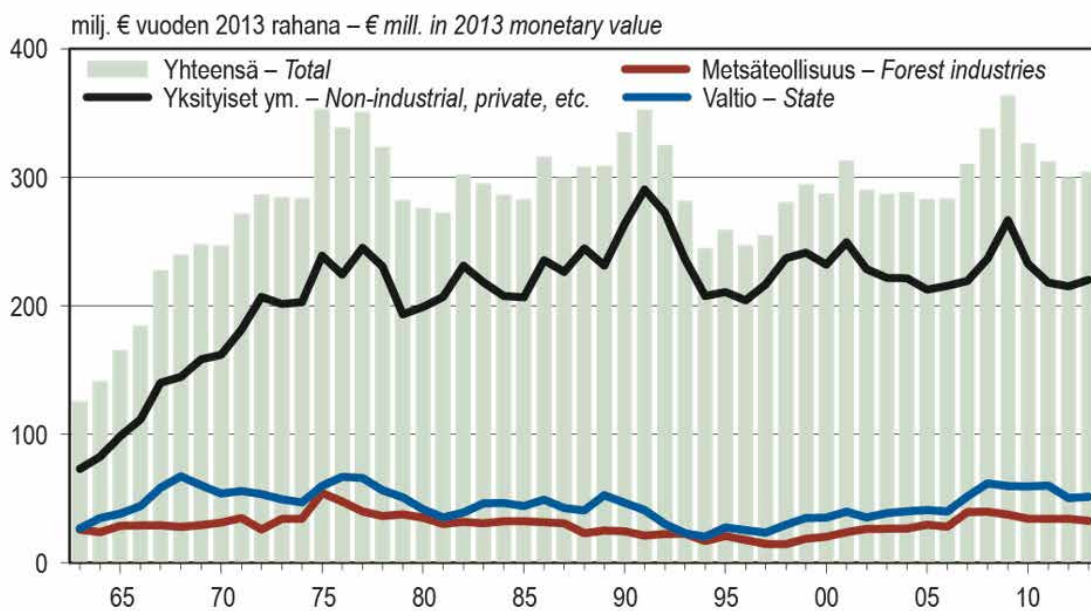
less than annual increment. European forests are thus a substantial carbon sink. This has required long-term investments both from public and private stakeholders. Forests need to be utilized in sustainable manner and with long-term vision.

In Finland majority of forests, more than 70 %, is owned by private forest owners - about 1/5 of Finns own forest. Since 1990 private forest owners have invested over 6 000 million euros into forestry.

Every year forest owners, state and industries invest about 300 million euros into sustainable forest management! Since 1990 the amount of wood biomass in Finnish forests have grown about 30 %. These figures show that green growth needs investments.

Farmers and forest owners as key players

To solve the climate change there's a need to stop introducing fossil emissions to the atmosphere and move to fossil-free bioeconomy. Forests and sustainable forest management has a key role in the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Moving to sustainable bioeconomy, and recognizing the role of carbon cycle which green growth creates, rural economies get a lot of new possibilities: We, farmers and forest owners, are managing the most important resources of the bioeconomy. Farmers' and forest owners' role in bioeconomy and carbon sequestration needs to be acknowledged. Growth in forests and fields doesn't happen just by chance: with good management and operations the growth can be multiplied and at the same time resources for the bioeconomy: food, feed, fibers, energy etc. is produced.



Rahanarvot on muunnettu tukkuhintaindeksillä (1949=100). – Monetary values are deflated using wholesale price index (1949=100).
Vuodesta 2008 lähtien kokonaiskustannukset sisältävät myös kasvatushakkuiden ennakkoraivauksen kustannukset.
Since 2008, the total costs also include the costs for initial clearings of intermediate felling areas.

Lähde: SVT: Metsäntutkimuslaitos, metsätalastollinen tietopalvelu – Source: OSF: Finnish Forest Research Institute

Metsänhoito- ja metsänparannustöiden kokonaiskustannukset 1963–2013

Total costs of silvicultural and forest improvement work, 1963–2013

Metsätalastollinen vuosikirja 2014

VALUING FORESTS IS KEY TO BOOST SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ITALY

Virginia Cravero

YPARD ITALY REPRESENTATIVE



Forests play an irreplaceable role at a multi-dimensional level: they contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance the conservation of water and soil against landslides and erosion and provide wood and food to hundreds of millions of people. Forests are also major carbon absorption tanks. The Italian forest heritage is characterized by a high degree of environmental heterogeneity and biological diversity ranging from the alpine forests in the North, similar to those of Central and Northern Europe; deciduous woodlands which occupy most of the montane and the Mediterranean belts, and vascular plants typical of the hot-dry climate of the South of Italy.

Over the last 20 years, the National Forestry Authority has registered an increase of 1.7 million hectares (+20%), particularly due to the structural change in agriculture and pastoralism, which led to the abandonment of the less profitable forest areas of the Apennines and the Alps. The latest official figures issued by the National Forestry Authority show that forests cover 10,916,000 hectares, (36.2% of the Italian territory). The macro-category of “woodland” accounts for 83.7% (29% of the national territory). Only 33.9% of Italian forests are publicly owned.

In Italy, there are around 12 billion trees (200 trees / citizen, 1.500 m² / citizen). According to data reported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), tree species are 117, most of which are endemic. The most common species are deciduous species of the genus *Quercus* (27% of total forest area) and *Fagus sylvatica* (12%). The most extensive plant communities are conifers, such as *Abies alba* and / or *Picea abies* (10%), followed by mountain species and oromediterranee of the genus *Pinus* (5%).

Nowadays, forests cover a third of the Italian territory, providing business opportunities for 80,000 entrepreneurs, working in the Italian manufacturing industry. “Italy imports more than two-thirds of wood, remaining among the last countries in Europe using annually its own heritage (about 30 percent compared to a European average of 60 percent),” reported Legambiente.

“To ensure a future for our forests we must first develop an effective national policy for the protection and enhancement of forest resources which should be a reference for Regionals’ policies,” suggested the President of Legambiente, Rossella Muroli. “We need to promote sustainable forest management, able to boost socio-economic development of local populations, especially in the internal areas of the country, home to 80 per cent of territories with forest “.

National forest management plans must valorize forests, taking into account the historical and cultural values of this important natural resource. In the planning process, it is necessary to consider forests not as a closed system, but as one of components of the territorial systems that interact with all the actors, factors and phases involved in the governance of the territory. For the conservation and protection of biodiversity, it is essential to strengthen the concept of bio-cultural diversity that represents the synthesis of natural and cultural components, embedded into the Italian agro-forestry-pastoral landscape. Tools for protection and national strategies for the conservation of nature must recognize the cultural origin of Italian biodiversity and the role of forest management as an efficient instrument for protection, conservation and enhancement of the landscape.

To further enhance the entire supply chain, it will be necessary to focus on tax exemption for forest products (wood, firewood, non-timber) or, for example, on the remuneration of ecosystem services provided by forests and mountainous inland areas by downstream populations. “Valuing the forest resource is to acknowledge an environmental, landscaping, biodiversity protection’s role, combating

climate change and the hydrological instability, but also a significant social and economic benefits for both the timber sector and for connected products”, he said Deputy Minister of Environment of Italy, Andrea Olivero.

Confirming this vision, the President of Legambiente underlined the need to “imagine a real project enhancing the public forests, affecting 32.4 % of the total forest holdings, by which also stimulate private participation. A project to be included in a multifunctional management framework capable of ensuring the protection and quality of natural resources related to forest, ensuring the social, economic and environmental role, involving the local community in a sustaina-

bility strategy for a long term “. The Italian forests can and must play a key role in the future of the country, whether it be economic and environmental protection.

The potential of forests in mitigating climate change strategies must also be considered in the logic of the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, thanks to their capacity of carbon sequestration.

According to the latest data provided by The Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, ISPRA the carbon sequestration of forests accounted for more than 20 % of the total emissions reductions registered in Italy in the period 2008-2012.



NEWS



Dr. Evelyn Nguleka, WFO former President, passed away

On Saturday 4th February, Dr. Evelyn Nguleka, former President of the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) passed away, at the University Teaching Hospital, Intensive Unit Care, where she had been admitted since Wednesday February 1st. No word can compensate such a loss. Dr. Nguleka was a thinker and a visionary, she contributed for her whole life to bring the voice of farmers, especially youth and women, from across the world, in major international political processes. All WFO community is overwhelmed of sorrow because of this death.



WFO was officially granted a seat in GFAR Steering Committee

GFAR is a platform, which through the collective advocacy activities of its Partners, proposes policies about the future of research in farming and agriculture. The aim of GFAR is to make agri-food research and innovation more effective, responsive and equitable. GFAR's Steering Committee reviews and approves the GFAR's general policy and strategy, ensuring that they are consistent with GFAR's mission and objectives, as well as with the recommendations made at the Forum's General Meeting. The Committee also provides opportunities to develop joint activities and projects with GFAR and other stakeholders.

The participation within this Forum is: i) an evidence of the long-term relationship WFO has had with GFAR; ii) an evidence of WFO reliability and credibility as international player, and; iii) it also provides an opportunity to network, actively engage with other stakeholders and develop collective actions with the Committee members.



WFO Youth committee at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA), Berlin, 19-21 January

The 9th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2017 (GFFA) is an international conference that focuses on central questions concerning the future of the global agri-food sector. It gives representatives from the world of politics, business, science and civil society an opportunity to share ideas and enhance understanding on a selected topic of current agricultural policy. A delegation of young farmers from all over the world gathered in Berlin and delivered an oral statement to over 75 Agriculture Ministers focusing on the key role youth can play in addressing the challenge of feeding a growing world population while continuing to be stewardship of water.



WFO at the International Green Week 2017

The International Green Week Berlin 2017 was held in Berlin, from 19 to 21 January. A delegation of the WFO attended the opening session that saw the participation of 70 ministers of agriculture and deputy ministers, leading representatives of agriculture and the food industry, as well as key international figures from politics, business, science and civil society, will be discussing some of the most pressing issues facing humankind. The IGW will provide an overview of the worldwide food industry as well as the largest range of regional specialties to be found at any trade show. In addition, it offers a unique display by agriculture and horticulture along with numerous attractive shows dealing with specialist topics.



WFO Interviewed Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, President, World Food Prize

Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn described his ideas and inspiring stories of success in his interview with WFO at the GFFA2017 on 21 January 2017. As President of the World Food Prize, the foremost international award recognizing the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world, he explained to WFO his experiences in the agricultural sector and what he believed were the threats and opportunities for farmers.



CFS Open Ended Working Group on SDGs

On January 27, 2017, a delegation of the WFO International Secretariat participated in the meeting of the CFS Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting of the 27th was focused on the potential support that CFS may provide vis à vis the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals to the High-Level Political Forum. The HLPF is the forum established by the United Nations with the aim of monitoring the implementation of the SDGs at national level. It is composed of the UN member States and meets once a year in July. WFO is working to reinforce the farmers' agenda in the two processes.



WFO at WB Technical Roundtable on Agricultural Resilience in Action, Washington, 31 January - 1 February

At the end of January, a delegation of WFO participated in technical discussion on how to support farmers to build their resilience to contribute further to the achievement of global food security. The Agriculture sector and the global food system are highly vulnerable to a growing set of diverse risks. For centuries, rainfall variability, drought, floods, pest and disease outbreaks, have led to production shortfalls, and threatened global food security. With the climate change and the intensifying markets challenges, strengthening farmers' resilience is going to be more important than ever to ensuring food security and reaching many of the SDGs. WFO participated in the discussion bringing the voice of farmers, presenting challenges and opportunities they have within the sector. Multi-stakeholder approach is key to the achievement of successful results.



Official Launch of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017, Madrid, 18 January 2017

The Official Launch of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017 took place in the International Tourism Fair of Spain, FITUR, and will be followed by 12 months of global actions aimed at advancing sustainable tourism contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Co-presented by Max Forster, CNN, and Raquel Martínez, RTVE, the UNWTO event underlined the immense socio-economic opportunities brought by the sector to all societies as well as its power to advocate for mutual understanding, peace and sustainable development worldwide.



WFO is preparing a series on publication under the H2O initiative

WFO is currently preparing a series of booklets under the H2O initiative. H2O, beyond being the chemical formula for water, stands for "How to Organize, Overview, Obtain..." and become successful as an agro-preneurship. The booklets will collect case studies showing best practices in the farming sector. Below is the least of themes for the publication. Should you wish to contribute an article, kindly share contact Ms Valentina Gasbarri at valentina.gasbarri@wfo-oma.org. Participating in this initiative will grant members a large visibility and promotion of their activities.



Former Prime Minister of Togo to head United Nations rural poverty agency

Rome, 14 February 2017

Gilbert Fossoun Hougbo, former Prime Minister of Togo, has been appointed as the sixth President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to lead the specialized United Nations agency and international financial institution that invests in eradicating rural poverty in developing countries around the world. With growing global demand for food, increased migration to cities and the impact of climate change, investments in agriculture and rural development will be essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of ending poverty and hunger. Hougbo believes that the inequality in today's world should never be accepted and that IFAD has a crucial role to play in bringing opportunities to the poor and excluded.

EVENTS



Side Event: Building ocean science, technology and related capacities toward achieving sustainable development of the ocean and seas (UN Ocean Conference Preparatory Meeting 15 February 2017

This event aimed to discuss means of implementation of SDG 14 related to scientific research, ocean observation, particularly in the context of ocean acidification, capacity development and transfer of marine technology in the perspective of the UN SDG 14 conference. In particular, it identified key scientific and related capacity development challenges in implementation of SDG 14; discussed opportunities for scaling up existing efforts in international marine research and particularly ocean acidification; and identified potential multistakeholder partnerships focused on scientific knowledge, capacity development and transfer of marine technology, to be presented at the UN Conference.



1st UNWTO World Conference on Smart Destinations

15 -17 February 2017 Murcia, Spain

The World Tourism Organization, the Kingdom of Spain and the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia have partnered up to organise the 1st UNWTO World Conference on Smart Destinations, in order to lead and shape this new tourism model for the 21st century, based on Innovation, Technology, Sustainability and Accessibility. The end goal is to ensure the destination is sustainable in the long term, economically, socio-culturally and environmentally. In this ever-changing context, where new proposals appear every day all over the world, it is essential to examine these new models in depth. With this aim, the UNWTO gathered public administrations, the private sector, civil society and local agents, technology centres and universities from all over the world, so that together they could analyse and construct the tourism model for the 21st century.



Preparatory Meeting for UN Conference on SDG 14

15-16 February 2017, UN Headquarters, New York, USA

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) held a preparatory meeting for the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), under the leadership of co-facilitators Alvaro Mendonca Moura, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the UN, and Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the UN. The meeting discussed the elements of the expected outcome document, a 'Call for Action', and the themes for the partnership dialogues.

<http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/sdg14conference/prep/>



Water-Energy Nexus: Resource Efficiency - Capacity Building Workshop for ESCWA Region

19-20 February 2017, Manama, Al Manamah, Bahrain

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Beirut, Lebanon, in cooperation with the National Oil and Gas Authority in Bahrain under the patronage of the Minister of Oil, organized a regional capacity-building workshop on 'Water-Energy Nexus: Resource Efficiency'. The event will be followed by a regional workshop on Carbon Capture, Use and Storage (CCUS) which will take place on February 21st.



Water-Energy Nexus: Resource Efficiency - Capacity Building Workshop for ESCWA Region

20-24 February 2017, Bonn, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

The Executive Board supervises the Kyoto Protocol's CDM under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP). The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), defined in Article 12 of the Protocol, allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol (Annex B Party) to implement an emission-reduction project in developing countries. Such projects can earn saleable certified emission reduction (CER) credits, each equivalent to one tonne of CO₂, which can be counted towards meeting Kyoto targets. It is the first global, environmental investment and credit scheme of its kind, providing a standardized emissions offset instrument, CERs.



World Ocean Summit 2017

22-24 February 2017, Bali, Jakarta Raya, Indonesia

The World Ocean Summit will discuss how to finance a sustainable ocean economy, including consideration of the types of investment frameworks and capital necessary to bring the blue economy to scale. The event will convene over 360 global leaders from government, industry, multilateral organizations, the scientific community, and civil society to address the risks and opportunities involved in pursuing a blue economy approach and showcase examples of businesses, governments, scientists and others who have successfully aligned economic activity with sustainable management of the oceans. Additional discussion topics include: the global demand for seafood over time; the economic case for addressing marine pollution; and areas for new investments in the ocean economy.

<http://www.economist.com/events-conferences/asia/ocean-summit-2017>



Aid and Development Africa Summit 2017

28 February - 1 March 2017, Nairobi, Kenya

This conference will be co-hosted by the Aid and International Development Forum (AIDF) and the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The topics to be addressed by the conference panels include: Mobile Technology Innovations to Support Community Resilience; Data Strategy to Support SDGs; Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Strengthening Rural Infrastructure; Innovations, Partnerships and Policy Updates for Disaster Preparedness; Updates and Initiatives for Meeting Education SDGs; Improving Livelihoods and Safety of Displaced People; Lessons Learned from Recent Drought Crisis; Innovations and Reforms to Support Health SDGs; Humanitarian Logistics; Health & WASH Innovations; and Effective Partnerships for Aid and Development Programmes in East Africa.

<http://africa.aidforum.org/>

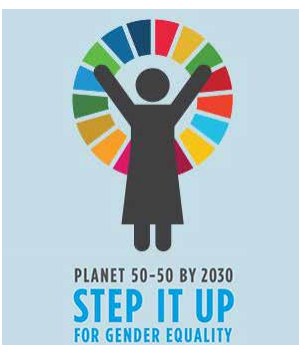


The fifth session of the Platform's Plenary of IPBES

7-10 March 2017, Bonn, Germany

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is the intergovernmental body that assesses the state of biodiversity and of the ecosystem services. IPBES is placed under the auspices of four United Nations entities (UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP) and is administered by UNEP. Its secretariat is hosted by the German Government. The Plenary will be preceded by a stakeholder event on 6 March.

<http://www.ipbes.net/plenary/ipbes-5>



1st UNWTO World Conference on Smart Destinations

15 -17 February 2017 Murcia, Spain

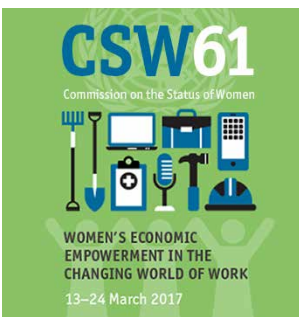
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61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61)

March, 13-24, New York, United States of America

The sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 24 March 2017. This session turns the focus of the United Nations to Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work. At the same time, civil society is given the opportunity to participate in the NGO CSW Forum, organized by NGO CSW/NY to discuss the theme, network, share strategies/good practices, and lobby governments to implement resolutions and treaties. On this occasion, WFO Committee on Women in Agriculture will deliver a statement on the challenges and opportunities for women in agriculture.

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017#sthash.RO1tmFny.dpuf>





Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

14 March 2017, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is an informal, voluntary arrangement among 14 international organizations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests. These agencies share their experiences and build on them to produce new benefits for their respective constituencies. They collaborate to streamline and align their work and to find ways of improving forest management and conservation and the production and trade of forest products. The CPF usually convenes to discuss strategic areas of coordination between CPF members and to work towards a better coherence between countries.

<http://www.cpfweb.org/73953/en/>



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