



FORESTRY SOCIETY OF KENYA

Promoting Professional Forestry in Kenya

11th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE:

"Forestry and sustainable development"

VENUE: ELDORET, KENYA

DATE: 28-30TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

Conference concept

At the closing of the World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa in September 2015, more than 4000 delegates sent a strong message to the world about their vision for forests and forestry. The Durban Declaration stated three critical points why forests are an important consideration for achieving sustainable development by Year 2030:

- Forests are more than trees and are fundamental for food security and improved livelihoods. The forests of the future will increase the resilience of communities by providing food, wood energy, shelter, fodder and fibre; generating income and employment to allow communities and societies to prosper; harbouring biodiversity; and supporting sustainable agriculture and human wellbeing by stabilizing soils and climate and regulating water flows.
- Integrated approaches to land use provide a way forward for improving policies and practices to: address the drivers of deforestation; address conflicts over land use; capitalize on the full range of economic, social and environmental benefits from integrating forests with agriculture; and maintain multiple forest services in the landscape context.
- Forests are an essential solution to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Sustainably managed forests will increase the resilience of ecosystems and societies and optimize the role of forests and trees in absorbing and storing carbon while also providing other environmental services.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was tasked to deliver another message on behalf of WFC participants to the climate change talks that followed later that year. The highlights of that message were that the threat of climate change should be urgently addressed for which it was necessary:

- To continue making information available to policy makers for decision making and help practitioners to achieve mitigation and adaptation goals,

- Increase understanding of the challenges and opportunities available in addressing climate change in the context of achieving sustainable development goals.

It was also in September 2015 that the UN General Assembly agreed on 17 Sustainable Development Goals for steering global development agenda until 2030.

The Forestry Society of Kenya seeks to interrogate all Sustainable Goals that have a bearing on forestry and in particular, pay attention to Goal No. 15 which is specific to supporting life on earth and the role forests will be expected to play. A one-day conference will be organized during which scientific and other presentations will be made to debate on the actions to be taken by Kenya in order to domesticate the goals, the most urgent of which have action dates falling due as soon as 2020! The completion schedule confirms there is no time to lose. FSK therefore has reasons to create wide awareness about the goals by bringing together different actors, to deliberate on what is being done to address the specific actions outlined in Goal 15 and what needs to be done to meet the deadlines and at the same time ensure sustainability of the environment and development.

THEME:

Contribution of Forestry towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal for steering global development agenda

SUB-THEMES

1. Equitable access to forest ecosystem products and services!! Is it a dilemma?
2. Sustainable management and exploitation of forests: Focus on plantations.
3. Conservation of forest biodiversity and control of invasive species
4. Financing and legislation on management of forest.