

International scientific conference: “African forest-related policies and politics”
24 – 27 September 2018 in Yaoundé, Cameroon
Call for Abstracts – Save the Date

The University of Göttingen in Germany and the University of Dschang in Cameroon announce the first IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organisations) social sciences conference on “African forest-related policy and politics”. This international and inter-disciplinary scientific conference aims to advance cutting edge knowledge on the emergence and evolution of African forest-related policy and politics. The conference will take place in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 24 to 27 September 2018, with the support of the Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC).

The African forest is paradoxical in relation to the tropical forest regions. When the rate of forest degradation due to wood-fuel demand and slash-and-burn small farming rises, the level of deforestation falls below that of South Asia and Latin America. In other words, the utilisation of African forestland resources occurs faster in regions covered by dry and accessible forests while the majority of the rainforests in the Congo basin remains broadly intact. Up to now, African forests from the North Africa Mediterranean region to the southern, eastern, western and central African regions face growing pressure due to forestland conversion, biodiversity loss, livelihood issues, demographic growth, wildfires, above- and underground resources exploitation.

We would like to invite researchers from theoretical and empirical social sciences that include development studies, political science, geography, anthropology, sociology, and economics, i.e. disciplines that employ qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods to analyse the governance of African forest-related issues. Research focusing on the technology- forest policy nexus as well as gender dimensions will also be appreciated. We are looking for proposals whose originality contributes to elucidating the formal and informal realities of African forest governance and related issues. Authors are encouraged to bring out analytical research issues and strong hypotheses that support their proposed abstracts and manuscripts.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Proposals for oral presentations, sessions and posters should explicitly refer to at least one of the ten following selected conference sub-themes: 1) Nature conservation policies; 2) Forest and climate change; 3) Political economy of deforestation; 4) Forestlands and agricultural commodities; 5) Biodiversity and market-based instruments; 6) Transnational and decentralised forest governance; 7) Development, social equity and sustainability; 8) Forest concessions; 9) Ecotourism and forest recreation; 10) livelihoods and Non-timber forest products.

CONFERENCE DEADLINES AND PUBLICATION PERSPECTIVES

Please submit your abstracts (maximum 300 words) to iufroyaounde2018@gwdg.de by **February 23, 2018**. The scientific committee will transmit their decision by March 23, 2018. Authors of the selected abstracts will be invited to submit their full manuscripts to the conference organisers by July 12, 2018. A selection of best manuscripts, if approved by a rigorous peer-review, will be published in a *special issue of the journal, Forest Policy and Economics* (Elsevier).

MAIN ORGANISERS

University of Göttingen, Germany; Prof. Dr. Max Krott & Dr. Symphorien Ongolo, Chair of Forest and Nature Conservation Policy, Contact: songolo@uni-goettingen.de

IUFRO – Unit 09.05; Dr. Lukas Giessen, Forest Policy and Economics (Elsevier), Editor-in-Chief, Contact: lukas.giessen@efi.int

University of Dschang, Cameroon; Prof. Martin Tchamba, Department of Forestry, Contact: mtchamba@univ-dschang.org

REGISTRATION FEES

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|--|--------------|
| Participant from developed countries & related institutions* | 315.00 Euros |
| Participant from transition & developing countries* | 210.00 Euros |
| Student from African universities & research institutions** | 85.00 Euros |

*_please see the following list: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_current/2014wesp_country_classification.pdf

** This will be valid only with a formal letter of confirmation of student status from her/his faculty

- *Please note that conference registration will open on early February 2018.*
- *Registration fees include conference participation, coffee breaks and lunches, welcome Reception, opening & Closing ceremony.*
- *A limited number of full and partial sponsorships for conference participation will be available.*

CONFERENCE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

(Preliminary list in alphabetical order)

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Abwoli Y. Banana | <i>(Makerere University, Uganda)</i> | Max Krott | <i>(University of Göttingen, Germany)</i> |
| Abdelhamid Khaldi | <i>(INRGREF, Tunisia)</i> | Moïse Tsayem Demaze | <i>University of Maine, France</i> |
| Alain Karsenty | <i>(CIRAD, France)</i> | Ouahiba Meddour-Sahar | <i>(University Mouloud Mammeri of Tizi Ouzou, Algeria)</i> |
| Aurelian Mbzibain | <i>(University of Wolverhampton/CV4C – UK)</i> | Phil René Oyono | <i>(RRI, Washington, USA)</i> |
| Chimère Diaw | <i>(Model Forest Network, Cameroon)</i> | Paolo Omar Cerutti | <i>(CIFOR, Nairobi, Kenya)</i> |
| Esther Mwangi | <i>(CIFOR, Nairobi, Kenya)</i> | Patrice Bigombe-Logo | <i>(University of Yaoundé 2, Cameroon)</i> |
| Felix Kalaba | <i>(Copperbelt University, Zambia)</i> | Paxie Chirwa | <i>(University of Pretoria, South Africa)</i> |
| LIU Haifang | <i>(West Asian and African Studies Institute, Peking University)</i> | Richard Eba'a | <i>(CIFOR, Yaoundé, Cameroon)</i> |
| Hanne Svarstad | <i>(Oslo and Akershus University College, Norway)</i> | Robert Nasi | <i>CIFOR – Bogor, Indonesia</i> |
| James Murombedzi | <i>(UNECA, Ethiopia)</i> | Samuel Assembe-Mvondo | <i>(COMIFAC, Yaoundé)</i> |
| Jane Mutune | <i>(University of Nairobi, Kenya)</i> | Solange Bandiaky | <i>(RRI, Washington, USA)</i> |
| Jesse Ribot | <i>(University of Illinois, USA)</i> | Susan Chomba | <i>(ICRAF, Nairobi, Kenya)</i> |
| Judith Kamoto | <i>(University of Malawi)</i> | Symphorien Ongolo | <i>(University of Göttingen, Germany)</i> |
| Lukas Giessen | <i>(Forest Policy and Economics, Editor-in-Chief)</i> | Takanori Oishi | <i>(African Studies Center, TUFS, Tokyo – Japan)</i> |
| Maria Brockhaus | <i>(University of Helsinki, Finland)</i> | Tor A. Benjaminsen | <i>(Norwegian University of Life Science, Norway)</i> |
| Martin Tchamba | <i>(University of Dschang, Cameroon)</i> | Valérie Boisvert | <i>(University of Lausanne, Switzerland)</i> |

CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Symphorien Ongolo | <i>University of Göttingen</i> | Denis Sonwa | <i>CIFOR</i> |
| Samuel Assembe | <i>COMIFAC</i> | Dany Pokem | <i>PFBC</i> |
| Martin Tchamba | <i>University of Dschang</i> | Yue Zhao | <i>University of Göttingen</i> |
| Minette Nago | <i>University of Göttingen</i> | Félicien Kengoum | <i>University of Bordeaux</i> |
| Ameni Hasnaoui | <i>University of Göttingen</i> | Richard Sufo | <i>University of Maine</i> |
| Aurelian Mbzibain | <i>University of Wolverhampton/CV4C</i> | Eugene Chia | <i>GIZ-ProPSFE</i> |
| Ghislain Agoum | <i>University of Dschang</i> | | |