

## International scientific conference: “African forest-related policy 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 woodfuel 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, 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. We are looking for proposals whose originality contribute 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](mailto:iufroyaounde2018@gwdg.de) before **January 26, 2018**. The scientific committee will transmit their decision by March 5, 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

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

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