



Call for papers  
(*Celebrating 25 years of UNU-INRA*)

International Conference on Sustainable Development of Natural  
Resources in Africa

*Creating a nexus between research and policy for sustainable  
management of natural resources in Africa*

5 - 8 December 2011, Accra, Ghana

The United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA)'s mission is to strengthen the capacity of Africa's universities and research institutions to conduct research and produce well-trained, well-equipped and motivated individuals. These individuals should be capable of developing, adapting and disseminating technologies that advance food security and promote conservation and the efficient use of the continent's natural resources for sustainable development. To this end, UNU-INRA is issuing a call for papers for an international conference that it wishes to organize to highlight new research and community engagement on sustainable natural resource management and use.

This four-day bilingual (French/English) conference is a landmark event focusing on evolving approaches, tools, methods and principles addressing the challenges associated with increasing natural resource use and sustainable development in Africa. It will feature keynote speakers from across the continent and from other parts of the world. The conference will also provide a space for creative exchange of ideas, for networking and for forging collaboration between African researchers, corporate leaders, policy makers, media, and civil society groups.

**Conference Objectives:**

1. Take stock of UNU-INRA's achievements and accomplishments over the past 25 years and chart a new course for future research, training and capacity development in Africa;
2. Identify challenges and opportunities for research and collaboration with African universities, research institutions and the private sector for natural resource management in Africa;

3. Create the platform for dialogue and help mobilize African perspectives on the development of natural resources for the *Rio +20 conference on sustainable development in 2012*;
4. Forge links with the private sector in the context of judicious natural resource management.

**Themes to be explored include:**

1. Harnessing land and water resources
2. Developing biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services
3. Promoting and nurturing a Green Economy
4. Governing the extractive industries

The conference is focused on Africa and we especially encourage submissions from African research scientists and policy and decision makers. However, contributors that address relevant experiences in the management of natural resources elsewhere are welcome. In addition to formal papers, we are very interested to hear from policy and decision makers, donors, researchers, NGOs and community representatives who have knowledge and experiences to share that enhance the conference's objectives.

The deadline for submitting abstracts (**maximum of 400 words**) of papers for consideration is **31 July 2011**. A scientific committee will assess all the submissions and will request full papers from the selected abstracts. The deadline for the submission of the full papers is **31 October 2011**. The format in which final papers should be submitted is attached to this call. Please e-mail abstracts and/or questions to: [andoh@inra.unu.edu](mailto:andoh@inra.unu.edu) or [andoharris@gmail.com](mailto:andoharris@gmail.com) Full details can be found at [www.unu-inra.edu](http://www.unu-inra.edu) and [www.unu.edu](http://www.unu.edu) .

Limited funding is available to cover full and/or partial costs of attending this conference. See the attached proposal form for further details.

\* UNU-INRA will publish selected articles in a monograph.