

Young African Forestry Professionals Publication Project (YAFP)

Raising Successful Forestry Professionals in Africa

BACKGROUND

Forest sector is playing a major role in sustenance of livelihoods of people around the world. Among the roles played by the sector are provision of goods and services as well as generation of employment for the labour market leading to numerous career opportunities including green jobs. These roles present a huge opportunity for Africa. In 2019, almost 60 % of Africa's population was under the age of 25 years making it the youngest continent in the world. Such a youthful population could provide a critical mass of talented individuals that would transform Africa's forest sector. However, there is a declining interest among the African youth especially in pursuing careers in forestry due to the negative perceptions surrounding the profession. Against this backdrop, there is a need to raise awareness about the career prospects and opportunities in forestry with the intent of developing interest among the timid youths.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project is a collaboration by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) and the joint IUFRO-IFSA Taskforce on Forest Education. This project aims at motivating and inspiring African youth to pursue forest-related studies and careers by increasing the visibility of career options, networking opportunities and young African role models working in forest-related fields. The project was launched in May 2020 and will run up to December 2020. Support for this project has been provided by IUFRO's Special Programme for Development of Capacities (IUFRO-SPDC) and the Joint IUFRO-IFSA Task Force on Forest Education.

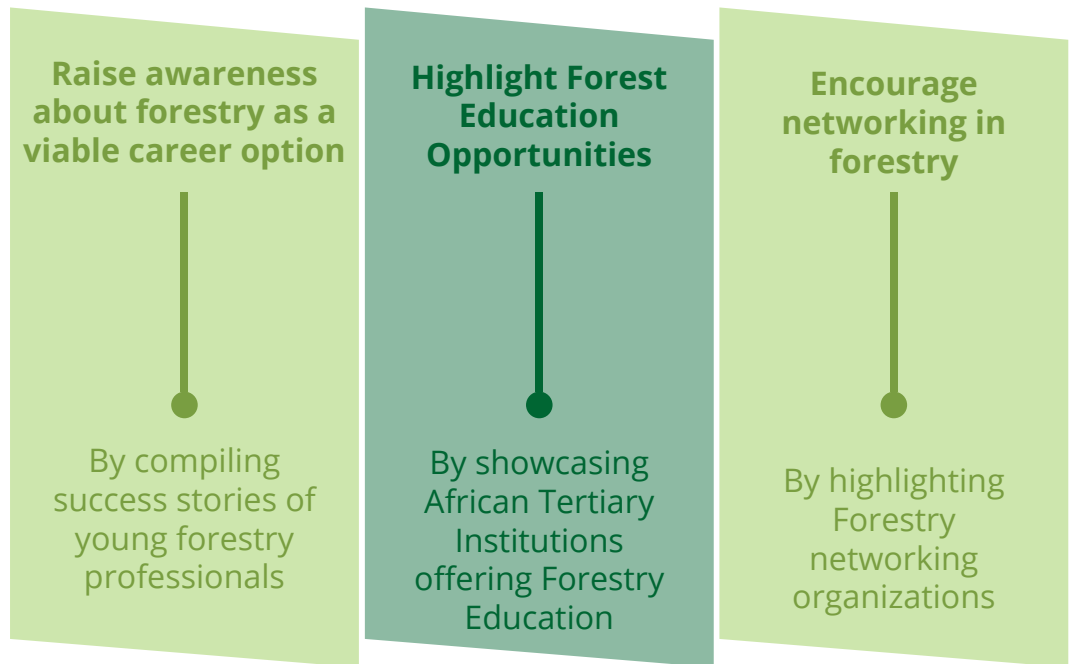


A cross section of students at the 2018 International Forestry Students' Association Northern African Regional Meeting at University of Ilorin, Nigeria.



OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH

A novel student-based study will be carried out and results compiled into a book which will be a one stop shop for knowledge on forest education and career development in forestry in Africa.



PROJECT OUTPUT

Digital and print publications of this project will be distributed widely. Books will be available to tertiary institutions offering forestry programmes in Africa and selected high schools. Electronic copies will be widely distributed online and promoted through various social media platforms.