

International
FORESTRY
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION



12TH MAY-18TH MAY, 2024.



IFSA Northern Africa Region
Presents



TREE CLUB, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN.

As

**NARM 2024
HOST**

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PROFILE OF INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (IFSA)

The International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) is a non-political, non-religious, nonprofit organization that stands as the largest youth organization working in the forestry sector. It unites students from forestry and related fields across seven global regions, providing a robust platform to lead, demonstrate, and share innovative and effective actions to make the world a just and climate-friendly place. IFSA facilitates the participation of young people in international negotiations, aiming to ensure a sustainable future for our forests and to amplify the youth voice in international forest policy processes. The organization actively organizes regional meetings in Asia Pacific, Northern Africa, Southern Africa, Latin America, Southern Europe, Northern Europe, and the Northern America region every year, fostering worldwide collaboration and cultural understanding among students. IFSA's key partners include prominent organizations such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC), and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Through these partnerships and its extensive network, IFSA offers students a platform to enhance their education, gain practical experience with a global perspective, and engage in scholarly discussions. Moreover, it promotes the inclusion of young people in international forest and environmental policy-making processes, empowering them to contribute effectively to a sustainable and equitable future.

NORTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING (NARM)

The Northern Africa Regional Meeting is the annual gathering of members of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) in the Northern Africa region. Each year, this event is hosted by a selected university and country, focusing on advancing IFSA's vision and mission by addressing regional issues. Universities in several African countries have established local committees and are registered members of IFSA. These countries include Sierra Leone, Morocco, Nigeria, and Ghana. The meeting also welcomes participants from other parts of the world, fostering a global dialogue on forestry issues.

In 2024, the IFSA will host its Northern Africa Regional Meeting (NARM) with a special emphasis on the role of the next generation of global citizens in forest conservation. It is our

collective duty to ensure the preservation of the world's forests for future generations. This involves advocating for better forest management policies, educating ourselves and others on the importance of sustainable development and forest conservation, and engaging in activities that promote forest health.

Young people and students have a pivotal role in creating programs that support sustainable forest management and in educating the community about the importance of preserving forests. They can also collaborate with legislators to ensure the enforcement of regulations and laws that protect our forests. Furthermore, by raising their voices, they can urge governments and corporations to take concrete actions towards forest conservation. Finally, by supporting advances in environmental innovations and sustainable forestry technologies, youth and students can contribute to a more sustainable future.

Through active participation in these initiatives, we can help ensure the preservation of our forests for the generations to come and play a vital role in conserving biodiversity.

NARM 2024 THEME:

Harnessing Technology for Sustainable Forestry and Environmental Innovation in Africa

Concept Note

The forest whispers of change. Trees, once sparse and struggling, now stand tall, their roots nurtured by a hidden weapon: technology. This isn't science fiction; it's the future of North Africa's forests, and it's unfolding now. The era of unsustainable practices and dwindling resources will soon be relegated to the annals of history, replaced by a future where stewardship and innovation reign supreme. "Harnessing Technology for Sustainable Forestry and Environmental Innovation in Northern Africa" isn't just a fancy title—it's a call to action. Leveraging technological advancements and innovative approaches to address forestry and environmental challenges within the Northern African region is one secret to achieving sustainability. Although technology is merely a tool, the real magic lies in collaboration, where wisdom and technology synchronize to spark innovation, creating fertile ground for

transformation. This represents new territory for technology to empower, and our hope for a sustainable forest to thrive.

In unleashing the Green Tech Revolution, IFSA NARM will explore:

1. **Digital Tools for Forest Monitoring:** To track changes in land use and biodiversity conservation activities in Africa, satellite imagery, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and remote sensing are utilized.
2. **Precision Forestry and Smart Agriculture:** Employing these strategies will maximize productivity, minimize environmental impact, and optimally manage resources in the region.
3. **Renewable Energy Integration:** Exploring ways to incorporate renewable energy technologies—such as biomass energy and solar-powered irrigation systems—into forestry and agroforestry projects to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and improve sustainability.
4. **Digital Platforms and Community Engagement:** Utilizing communication technologies and digital platforms to enhance community involvement, facilitate knowledge exchange, and support collaborative decision-making in forestry and environmental management projects.
5. **Capacity Building and Skill Development:** This project aims to meet the needs of researchers, forestry professionals, and local populations in Northern Africa by offering capacity building and skill development opportunities in digital literacy, data analysis, and technology adoption.

IFSA NARM is more than just a meeting; it's a movement. A movement where technology becomes the key to unlocking a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future for Northern Africa's forests and the communities that rely on them.

By focusing on technology and innovation within the context of Northern Africa, this theme aims to foster cooperation, knowledge sharing, and the implementation of practical solutions to boost sustainable forestry and environmental conservation efforts in the region.

OBJECTIVES

- To understand and promote the adoption of technology in the forest sector to maximize the benefits of forests in Africa.
- To offer a platform for the exchange of best technological practices required to ensure sustainable forestry.
- To motivate youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, and other stakeholders to actively participate in technology-driven projects.

STRATEGIES

1. Workshops/Seminars: Conduct targeted training sessions and workshops aimed at enhancing participants' technical proficiency in utilizing technology for environmental and forestry management. These sessions should focus on hands-on learning and practical applications to ensure skill development.
2. Innovation Challenges: Foster collaboration by organizing contests or hackathons that challenge participants to create technology-based solutions for environmental and forestry issues. These innovation challenges provide a platform for creative problem-solving and encourage the development of impactful solutions.
3. Field Trips: Facilitate immersive field trips to diverse ecological sites, allowing participants to observe firsthand the application of technology in forestry and environmental management. These trips provide valuable experiential learning opportunities and deepen understanding through practical exposure.
4. Fun-Based Activities: Integrate engaging and enjoyable activities into learning initiatives, such as gamified learning modules, interactive simulations, or team-building exercises. These fun-based activities enhance participant engagement, making the learning process more dynamic and memorable.

By implementing these strategies, the overall objective is to not only enhance technical proficiency but also to stimulate creativity, collaboration, and a practical understanding of how technology can be effectively employed in environmental and forestry management.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

1. Empowered Technological Proficiency (Linked to SDG 4):
 - a. Participants will gain advanced technical skills through workshops and seminars, contributing to enhanced capabilities in utilizing technology for environmental and forestry management.
 - b. This outcome aligns with SDG 4 (Quality Education), as it emphasizes the importance of education and skills development in fostering a knowledgeable and capable workforce.
2. Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Practices (Linked to SDG 9):
 - a. Participants successfully develop innovative and technology-driven solutions through contests and hackathons, fostering creative problem-solving and addressing environmental and forestry challenges.
 - b. This outcome directly relates to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), as it emphasizes the role of innovation and technology in promoting sustainable industrialization and building resilient infrastructure.
3. Enhanced Climate Action Awareness (Linked to SDG 13):
 - a. Practical understanding gained during field trips increases awareness of the impact of technology on climate action, promoting sustainable land use and contributing to environmental conservation.
 - b. This outcome aligns with SDG 13 (Climate Action), emphasizing the importance of collective efforts to combat climate change and its impacts on ecosystems, including forestry.

PARTICIPATION

More than 100 people are expected to attend the summit, with the majority hailing from Nigeria, Ghana, Morocco, Sierra Leone, and potential local committees from countries within Northern Africa, as well as participants from other parts of the world. Each participant is required to pay a registration fee of €17. The coordination of the event is managed by the Regional Representatives, executives, and the volunteer-run organizing committee. The summit is open to

local, regional, and international players in the fields of Forestry, Green Economy, Forest Technology, Aquaculture, and Wildlife Management. The conference aims to host representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Forest Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), and Nigeria Conservation Foundation (NCF).

STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING

The summit is a week-long program planned to take place in two formats: virtually and in person (main event). The goal of the virtual meeting is to utilize an online platform to convene individuals who will not attend in person. On the other hand, the physical component is dedicated to maintaining high participation.

The Organizing Committee (OC) of NARM 24 is committed to providing adequate meals, securing accommodations, organizing social events, educational excursions, networking, and providing transportation for the duration of the meeting.

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, NORTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING

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