



# 2<sup>nd</sup> International DAAD Workshop Forests in Climate Change Research and Policy: The Role of Forest Management and Conservation in a Complex International Setting

1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011, Pietermaritzburg and Durban, South Africa

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## Background and goals

Forests and any other trees outside the forest play a relevant role in all three great UN conventions (on Climate Change, on Biodiversity, and on Combatting Desertification). The policy processes to implement the measures in these conventions are extremely complex. Complexity is owed, among other reasons, from a blend of different sectoral and national interests, from a large number of scientifically not yet entirely resolved issues and a wide range of different biophysical, social, cultural and political conditions all over the world.

It is a challenge for academia to educate the future decision makers about the overall relevance of these processes and to integrate this education into regular curricula. At the same time, these processes offer a unique possibility to illustrate the important – and sometimes somewhat neglected – science-policy interface.

The Chair of Forest Inventory and Remote Sensing at the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology started in 2010 to implement a new format of “long-term / sustainable national capacity building” in form of a workshop on “Forest and Climate” for master-students and professors (alumni of German universities) that includes a visit to the Forest Day, the huge conference along the COP to UN-FCCC.

## Implementation

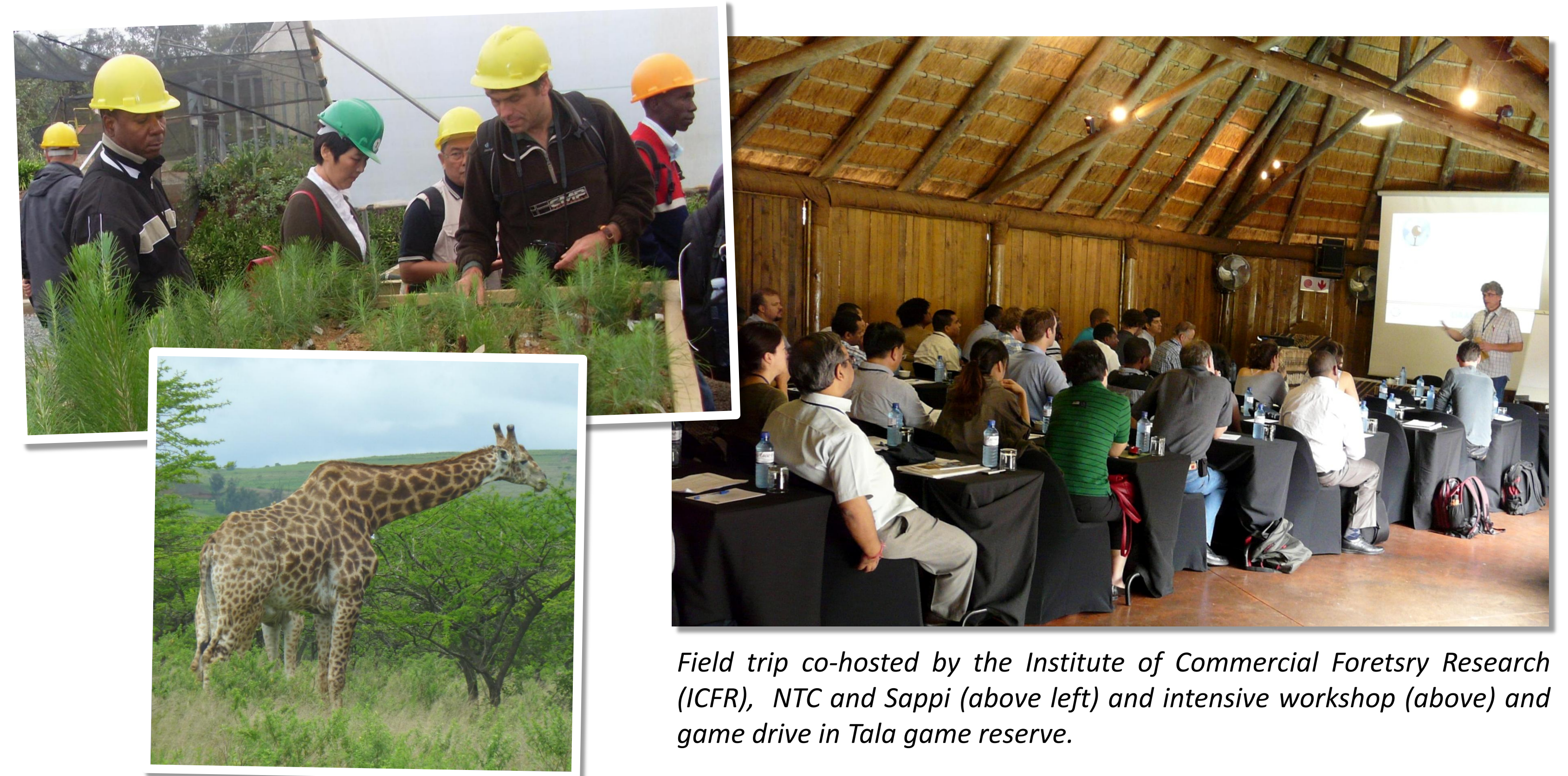
The workshop in South Africa was prepared by introductory seminars held at the University of Göttingen. Three distinct experts gave lectures on

1. Carbon Forestry: implementation and financing (Dr. Timm Tennigkeit, UNIQUE forestry and land use GmbH)
2. The evolution of REDD+ and what is at stake in Durban (Fabian Schmitz, GIZ)
3. Forests and land use in the tropics: challenges in their role in climate change mitigation and adaptation (Prof. Dr. Markku Kanninen, University of Helsinki and former Scientific Director at CIFOR).



Prof. Markku Kanninen and Prof. Christoph Kleinn welcoming the participants in an introductory seminar.

All participants delivered contributions in form of presentations in different sessions: Forest Management under Climate Change, Policy Issues of Climate Change, Monitoring Reporting and Verification, Forest Fires and Potential for REDD: Examples and Case Studies. Further, full papers of each presentation were compiled in a proceedings volume.



Field trip co-hosted by the Institute of Commercial Forestry Research (ICFR), NTC and Sappi (above left) and intensive workshop (above) and game drive in Tala game reserve.

As part of the workshop, an excursion was organized and co-hosted by the Institute of Commercial Forestry Research (ICFR), NTC and sappi.



CIFOR Director General Frances Seymour opening Forest Day 5 (left) and workshop participants discussing with international stakeholders and scientists at Forest Day (right, Photo by Neil Palmer/ CIAT, Center for International Forestry Research).



The Forest Day is a high level international congress organized on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests by CIFOR (Center for International Forest Research). This year in Durban along COP17, 1100 participants including more than 250 members of international delegations to the COP were registered; an excellent opportunity for our students to depend their knowledge on forest related climate issues, to grasp the complexity of the processes – and, not least, actively practice networking.

## Participants

This year, thanks to the support from DAAD, we were able to invite 45 attendees from 21 countries to our workshop near Durban, from Ecuador to China; but mainly from Africa. We believe that this workshop and the visit to Forest Day 5 was an equally rewarding and instructive experience for all participants, both in scientific-technical terms and also in terms of international networking.



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