



UNU-INRA: LOOKING AHEAD

Celebrating 25 years of UNU-INRA

International Conference on Sustainable Development
of Natural Resources

Faculty of Law Auditorium,
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Presentation outline

- ❖ Context: challenges and opportunities
- ❖ Mission and vision
- ❖ Strategic focus
- ❖ Program areas
- ❖ Operational modalities
- ❖ Resource mobilisation
- ❖ On-going activities and upcoming events



Context :Challenges and Opportunities

❖ Challenges

- ❖ Africa contained 46.6% and 93.3% of least developed countries in the world 1980 and 2010, respectively
- ❖ More than 40% of the people in sub-Saharan Africa are food insecure.
- ❖ FAO estimates annual forest loss to be 3.4 million hectares between 2000-2010.
- ❖ Civil wars are diverting human and material resources needed for development and are exacerbating natural resource depletion in Africa
- ❖ Unsustainable management and the lack of transparency in natural resources use have resulted in rapid degradation of soil, water and land resources



❖ Opportunities

- ❖ Africa's one billion people are its greatest asset. Its researchers can be found in some of the world's best research centres and universities.
- ❖ Africa's forests host a very significant proportion of the world's reservoir of diverse genetic resources.
- ❖ Africa's mineral wealth is legendary: the continent has 97 per cent of world reserves of chrome, 85 per cent of world reserves of platinum, and 64 per cent of world reserves of manganese.
- ❖ Africa is also one of the world's major sources of crude oil, gold, diamonds, copper, tin, titanium dioxide, coltan (columbite–tantalite), bauxite and uranium.



• **Our vision**

UNU-INRA and Mandate

- To be the leading institution in Africa for capacity building for research in natural resource management science and policy for addressing the development (NRM), targeting African universities and other national and regional organisations. UNU-INRA's goal is to be a catalyst in knowledge creation for efficient use of the continent's natural resources, thus leading to the improvement of livelihoods
- ❖ UNU-INRA was established in 1985, to bridge science and policy for addressing the development (NRM), targeting African universities and other national and regional organisations. UNU-INRA's goal is to be a catalyst in knowledge creation for efficient use of the continent's natural resources, thus leading to the improvement of livelihoods
- ❖ The statutes of UNU-INRA were approved at the 28th session of UNU Council in 1986.

• **MISSION**

- To empower African universities and research institutions through capacity strengthening. This will enable them to conduct high-quality research and produce a cadre of well-trained, well-equipped and highly motivated individuals.



Strategic focus

❖ Strategic foci draw on UNU-INRA's original mission and objectives and the overall Strategic Plan of the UNU for the period 2011– 2014.

❖ **Focus 1: Developing and improving capacity for research, training, and policy development for natural resource management in Africa**

❖ **Focus 2: Strengthening UNU-INRA's operating structures and networks**



Focus 1: Developing and improving capacity for research, training, and policy development for natural resource management in Africa

- ❖ Strengthen research and training capacity
- ❖ Facilitate and support knowledge development
- ❖ Enhance the collaboration and coordination of research funding for natural resource management in Africa
- ❖ Develop and manage knowledge delivery systems for natural resource policy and decision-making



Focus 2: Strengthening UNU-INRA's operating structures and networks

- ❖ Enhance UNU-INRA image and operational structures
- ❖ Strengthen the links between UNU-INRA and the Operating Units (OUs) and within OUs
- ❖ Revive and Enhance the College of Research Associates (CRA)Network
- ❖ Strengthen the Twinning partnership with UNU-ISP

Three program areas

UNU-INRA program areas

PA 1

Harnessing land and water resources for efficient and sustainable use

PA 2

Promoting conservation and developing a green economy

PA 3

Governing and managing the extractive industries



Research

Training and Capacity development

Policy development and outreach

Harnessing land and water resources for efficient and sustainable use

- ❖ Evaluating and monitoring the state of land and water resources in Africa
- ❖ Introducing technologies for improved on- and off-farm water use and management, including recycling and water harvesting;
- ❖ Understanding access and equity in distribution of and access to secure land and water resources;
- ❖ Improving and encouraging innovation through appropriate technologies for effective management of small reservoirs;

Harnessing land and water resources for efficient and sustainable use

- ❖ Analysing the connections between climate change and the human activities that affect land use as agents contributing to pollution, carbon emissions and global warming
- ❖ Increasing soil nutrients and efficient use of water
- ❖ Assessing the sustainability of the creation of long-term carbon sinks on agricultural lands
- ❖ Understanding the potential and challenges of payment on ecosystem services (PES)
- ❖ Exploring climate change adaptation through forecasting, early warning and adaptive capacity development for sustainable livelihoods

Promoting conservation and developing a green economy

- ❖ Training stakeholders on payment for ecosystem service (PES) as a potential means of lifting poor rural households out of poverty and ensuring future environmental security and sustainability
- ❖ Catalysing capacity development in Africa's universities to supply much-needed talents in Plant and Animal Taxonomy and Systematics
- ❖ Designing strategies to develop and sustainably exploit the potential of biodiversity-based industries
- ❖ Determining the environmental and economic impacts and relevance of invasive species on biodiversity and food security

Promoting conservation and developing a green economy

- ❖ Promoting the conservation, development and commercialization of underutilized and under-valued crops and species with emphasis on medicinal and other useful plants
- ❖ Understanding the approaches that can be effectively employed to close the complex and “leaky” nitrogen and phosphorous nutrient cycles



Governing and managing the extractive industries

- ❖ Understanding and managing mineral extraction and conflicts
- ❖ Conducting needs assessment and capacity development for negotiations and implementation of natural resources-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)
- ❖ Encouraging large and sustained private sector investment in the extraction and value addition to Africa's agro-minerals such as local phosphate rocks and rare elements
- ❖ Examining policy options to create incentives for investments in alternatives energy production (bio/hydro energy, solar, wind)



Operational Modalities

UNU-INRA
across Africa

African
Governments

Advisory

UNU-INRA (HQTs)

- Research and capacity development
- Project coordination
- Visiting scholars

Support

African
Universities

Partnership

Twinning

UNU-ISP

Coordination

Operating Units (OUs)

- Cameroon
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Namibia
- Senegal
- Zambia

Registry of Researchers
(ROR)

College of Research
Associates (CRAs)

Collaborators

- UN agencies
- International and Regional bodies
- NGOs



1,250 2,500 Km

Resource Mobilisation Framework

- ❖ Multi-pronged strategy:
 - ❖ Endowments
 - ❖ Special Project/Program Contributions (SPCs)
 - ❖ Consultancy
 - ❖ Equipment and Event funding.

On-going Activities and Upcoming Events

❖ On-going activities

- ❖ UN Joint Human Security Programme (Full title of the programme: Enhancing Human Security through Developing Local Capacity for Holistic Community-Based Conflict Prevention in Northern Ghana): Yendi Municipality (NR), Tamale Metropolis (NR), Bawku Municipality (UER), Wa Municipality (UWR)
- ❖ CECAR-Africa (Full title of the project: Enhancing Resilience to Climate and Ecosystem Changes in Semi-Arid Africa: An Integrated Approach): A few districts in Northern, Upper West and/or Upper East Regions



- ❖ Impact of Large-scale Mining Activities on Water Bodies with Emphasis on Heavy Metal Pollution: Tarkwa Municipality (Western), Obuasi Municipality
- ❖ Knowledge and Capacity Needs Assessment of Stakeholders of Lake Bosomtwe: Bosomtwe District (Ashanti)
- ❖ Knowledge and capacity needs survey of expert delegates from Africa to Rio+20 Negotiations

❖ **Upcoming events**

- ❖ Staff recruitment (2 senior fellows)
- ❖ UNU-INRA Visiting Scholars Program 2012
- ❖ Training workshop on E-waste management
- ❖ Postgraduate training:
 - ❖ Professional Master degree in Water and Environment
 - ❖ Explore with KNUST, UDS, UofG



UNU-INRA is 25 years

THANK YOU

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Institute for Natural
Resources in Africa

