



# 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Africa Soil Science Society - ASSS -



[www.asssonline.org](http://www.asssonline.org) or [www.asssland.org](http://www.asssland.org)

**22 - 28 November 2009, Yaoundé – Cameroon**

Theme:

**Soils and New Challenges for Sustainable Development in Africa**

## The Fifth Conference of ASSS

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference will gather in Yaoundé (Cameroon) soil scientists, land planners and users as well as all related specialists interested on new challenges for a sustainable development in Africa, to deliberate on emerging issues such as food insecurity and soaring food prices, renewable energies, climate change, land degradation, conservation agriculture, and land and water knowledge management.

The conference is expected to make a significant contribution for ensuring sustainable land management, food security and sustained livelihoods in Africa. It will also provide an opportunity (i) to strengthen the ASSS as regional body and the National Soil Science Societies in Africa, (ii) to consolidate the relationship with the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and the collaboration with various partners.

Through this conference, the ASSS also wish to reinforce its relationship with the African Union, to therefore, play a key role as an institution of the civil society at Africa continent level.

## The technical focus of the Conference

Following the first announcement and the call for papers of the conference, about 150 abstracts from Africa, Europe, Asia and America have been submitted for oral and poster presentations during the conference. These papers cover all the specific sessions on the following sub-themes:

### 1: Soil data base development in Africa

In this session three keynote lectures will be presented on Soil data collection and management, including soil properties, soil process, soil survey and mapping, soil process modelling. About 20 others communications are scheduled under this sub-theme.

### 2: Soils, food crisis and food security

Two keynote lectures related to soil in crop, forestry and livestock production will be presented followed by more than 35 other communications, dealing with relations between soil and crop varieties, cropping strategies, and ecosystems management.

### 3: Land and renewable energies

One keynote lecture and about 10 communications are scheduled for this session. These will discuss sources of renewable energies, especially those related to soil such bio-fuel (or agro-fuel) and biogas productions, improved fire set (Foyer amélioré), dams sedimentation and impacts on hydropower.

### 4: Soils and mitigation/adaptation to climate changes

Two keynote speeches and more than 15 selected communications will deal with on issues on soils, water and atmosphere, land use/land cover (LULC) and carbon sequestration, carbon credits, adaptation to climate changes, cropping calendars, etc.

### 5: Soil degradation and Sustainable Land Management in Africa

The discussion here will be animated by two keynote lectures and more than 15 selected communications focussing on the current status of land degradation (LD) in the agricultural fields, rangelands and forest of Africa, and the constraints and opportunities to prevent and control it.

### 6: Up-scaling Conservation Agriculture in Africa

One keynote lecture and eight selected communications will be discussed in this session about the challenges of promoting and up scaling Conservation agriculture (CA), a concept for resource-saving agricultural ecosystem production that strives to achieve acceptable profits together with high and sustained production levels while concurrently

conserving the environment as one of the promising ways of implementing SLM.

### Conference tours:

- Tour around Yaoundé: Observations of Forest soils and their use for sustainable development.
- Tour through the Highlands of West Cameroon and Mount Cameroon: Observations of Land Use system in mountainous area (Bocage landscape) and the Recent and old volcano and derived soils; Visit to the Cap of Debunsha (with 10 000 mm of rainfall).

The itinerary of the tour, about 650 km on well-tarred road, is shown the following map.



### Some important dates:

- **15 May 2009:** Notification for abstract acceptance
- **30 August 2009:** 3<sup>rd</sup> announcement
- **30 September 2009:** Deadline for Full paper submission
- **30 October 2009:** Final programme
- **22-28 November 2009:** The Conference
- **April 2010:** Publication of the Proceedings

For more information, contact:

Dr Yemefack ([yemefack@itc.nl](mailto:yemefack@itc.nl) or [myemefack@yahoo.fr](mailto:myemefack@yahoo.fr))

Tel: (237) 9414 4812 / 2201 5826

Dr Zougmore ( [rb\\_zougmore@hotmail.com](mailto:rb_zougmore@hotmail.com))

**Conference languages:** English and French

### Co-organizers:

- The Government of Cameroon through the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI)

- African Union (AU)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)
- International Union of Soil Science (IUSS),
- Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD),
- Cameroon Soil Science Society (CASSS),
- African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT),
- The University of Yaoundé 1
- The University of Dschang
- The University of Douala,
- etc.

### Participant Registration and payment

Participants can register and book accommodation by completing and sending a form that is available in the ASSS website:

[www.asssl.org](http://www.asssl.org) or [www.asssonline.org](http://www.asssonline.org)

#### • Registration fees:

Conference fee per participant: US\$250 and US\$100 for students (evidence should be provided). The deadline for the payment of these respective fees is by 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2009.

After this date, the registration fees will be US\$300 and US\$150 respectively.

Registration fees will cover conference documents, conference dinner, lunch and snacks, mid-conference tour, transport to and from conference site to hotels booked by the Organizing Committee.

Travel to and from Cameroon, accommodation and pocket money will be the responsibility of the participant.

#### • Currency

Currency in the Cameroon is the Franc CFA (1€ is equal to 655.9 FCfa, XAF).

#### Payment procedure:

The registration fees could be paid in advance by wire transfer to the address below:

Bank: **Afriland First Bank**

Branch: **Agence de la Retraite**

Swift code: **CCEICMCX**

Account name: **Cameroon Soil Science Society (CASSS)**

IBAN: **CM 21 10005 00010 02044261501-10**

#### Venue

The Yaoundé Conference Centre (Palais des Congrès de Yaoundé).

#### Scientific and Technical Committee

Visit the ASSS Website for the List of the international Scientific Committee and the list of the ASSS executive Bureau members.

## Certificate of Attendance

Each registered participant will receive a certificate of attendance with their registration materials.

## Exhibit Space

The exhibit space will be available in the Hall of the Conference Centre.

## General Conference Schedule

The Conference will begin on Sunday, November 22, 2009 with Exhibits open and the Opening Reception. Technical sessions begin at 8 am on Monday, November 23 with the Opening Session and continue through Tuesday, November 24 and Wednesday, November 25. Conference tour will be held on Thursday 26 and Friday 27, ending on Saturday, November 28, with the departure of participants.

## Practical information

### International Telephone Calls

Making an international telephone call from Cameroon to another country, please consider using phone calling cards or telephone booth. If you dial an international call from your hotel room without using a phone card, the rates will be very high.

## Internet Access

Wireless internet access is available in most hotels on a fee basis. The Organizing Committee will make arrangements to provide participants with a limited number of computers connected to the Internet at the conference centre.

## Travelling to and Accommodation in Yaoundé

Participants shall enter Cameroon from Yaoundé-Nsimalen International airport (30 km from Yaoundé city) or from Douala international airport (240 km from Yaoundé, 3 hours travelling by comfortable bus).

Many hotels are available around the Conference centre with accommodation rate varying between 35 and 75 € per night. On request, the LOC will help arranging accommodation. **Please check for available hotels around the conference venue on ASSS website.**

## For more information:

Visit ASSS Website:

[www.asssland.org](http://www.asssland.org) or [www.asssonline.org](http://www.asssonline.org)



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