

Journalistic competition - April 2021



With the support of



African forests : between ecological, socio-economic and climate stakes



Context

While the 16th UN Forum on Forests will be held at the end of April in New York (April 26 to April 30 2021)¹, Africa 21 and the Africa office of the United Nations Environment Program will be pleased to

¹ <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/index.html>

organize a journalistic competition to bring to the forefront African media that are working on those issues. Let's not forget that the forest protection is at the heart of international agenda this year through the Cop 15 on biodiversity in China, the IUCN World Conservation Congress in France and the Sustainable Development Goal n°15 on terrestrial ecosystems among others.

The forest plays a salient role for life on Earth. It provides many services: water, CO₂, food and supply numerous medicines. Forest ecosystem nurture many living species, but it also plays a critical function as a living place and as a place of economic creation for many African communities.

The forest stakes of the 21st century are tremendous for African countries. Every year, inch by inch, the Congo Basin, which is the second largest forest basin in the world after the Amazon, with an extent of 3 million km² – to mention solely the largest, and there are many – is shrinking.

In a nutshell, how to untangle the necessary stake of forest conservation and those of demographic challenges and economic development. How could the African forest be better valued and recognized, especially in light of the climate challenge and the benefits it provides? how to find a balance between development and conservation?



This competition is reserved for journalists who are members of the African Journalists Network on Sustainable Development and Climate Change, or professionals wishing to become members.

In order to assess the aforementioned work, Africa 21 appointed a jury composed of personalities from international Geneva, members of Africa 21 and experienced journalists.

Each work will receive a score out of 30 according to the criteria listed below. This mark will be the average of the marks given by the members of the jury.

Evaluation criteria	Maximum score	Score obtained
Choice of subject in relation to the competition theme	5	
Mention/reference to international initiatives or international Geneva, interviews with international experts	5	
Quality of journalistic production (writing, audio and video quality)	5	
Diversity of views	5	
Relevance of data and its use in the article	5	
Accessibility of the article for the general public (ease of reading)	5	
Total	30	

The top three candidates will receive a prize:

- 1st prize 500 CHF
- 2nd prize 300 CHF
- 3rd prize 200 CHF

If conditions allow, an online ceremony will be held where our partners will announce the results.

How to participate

To join this contest, please forward the following to info@africa21.org by May 6, 2021 :

- ✓ A copy of your press pass;
- ✓ Examples of journalistic work on environmental issues ;
- ✓ A biography and a photo.

Expected work:

- Submit an original journalistic work related to the contest theme, which has never been published or which has been published within the last 3 months; a bonus will be offered for works published for the purpose of this contest;
- Each work submitted to the contest must have been published in an African or international media, or shall soon be validated;
- The ideal audio or video format should be between 3 and 8 minutes.