



Session: **Uneven-aged silviculture in tropical forests:
barriers, opportunities and challenges**
Date: **Monday, 7 September, 12:45 – 14:15**
Venue: **Meeting room 11C**

Description

It is estimated today that 50% of tropical forests have been disturbed by human activities and that tropical forests for timber production cover more than 400 millions ha. It has to be accepted that the conservation of biodiversity and of the forest ecosystems of tomorrow will mostly take place within anthropized (logged, domesticated) forests, but only if they are well managed. In this context, silviculture of natural tropical forests also called uneven-aged tropical silviculture is a major tool to conserve to conserve continuous and large areas of natural forests whilst deriving economic benefits from them. Sustainable forest management is a major tool. Although many silvicultural systems were implemented in the 50's and 60' nowadays tropical silviculture is limited to selective logging without any other silvicultural interventions. Tropical silviculture still addresses primary forests with a large stock of timber and most of studies showed that timber stock will not recover totally within the rotation length usually not exceeding 35 years. Tomorrow's silviculture will therefore deal with disturbed, sometimes degraded forests, which will have to be strictly managed and in some extreme cases restored through intensive silviculture, such as liana removal around the future crop trees, thinning and enrichment planting with species of commercial value. The silviculture of tomorrow will also have to deal with compromises between production of goods (timber, NTFP), conservation of services (biodiversity, carbon) and different stakeholders with different perceptions and objectives. Moreover, tree response to climate changes that will increase air temperature and drought periods in many tropical regions is still poorly known. This side event aims to debate about the main barriers and opportunities to implement in the future sound uneven-aged silviculture in tropical forests.

Convening organizations

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