



## **7th IUFRO International Conference on Uneven-aged Silviculture**

### **21st Century forestry: Integrating ecologically-based, uneven-aged silviculture with increased demands for forests**

#### **First Announcement**

#### **Organizers**

IUFRO Unit 1.05.00 Uneven-aged silviculture

University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Department of forestry and renewable forest resources

#### **Sponsors**

Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS)

Slovenia Forest Service

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Forestry, Croatia

Society of American Foresters (SAF): D2 Silviculture Working Group

**Conference venue:** Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Conference date:** 23 – 26 September, 2010

**Post-conference tour** 27 – 30 September, 2010

**Conference language:** English

#### **Scope and Objectives**

In the 21st century, it is expected that the demands of society on renewable resources, particularly forests, will increase. Therefore, wise management of forests will become increasingly important. Forests not only provide wood, but many other ecosystem services as well, ranging from biodiversity conservation and carbon storage to various social functions, such that any form of management needs to consider these different functions. This can be achieved through forest segregation (zoning) or integration concepts, or a combination of both. The first concept embraces industrial forestry supported with biotechnology in combination with forest reserves for ecological and social functions. In contrast, the integrative concept includes simultaneous use of forests for various goods and services. Uneven-aged forest management (UAFM) in its broadest sense is one of the oldest existing examples of the integrative use of forest resources. Yet, its use in Europe decreased in the second part of the 20th century due to rigid interpretation, but also due to forest health problems, excessive deer browsing and non-adapted technologies. Often UAFM was criticised for its loose connection with ecological processes, such as natural disturbance regimes. There are also many different interpretations of what UAFM is in various parts of the world and this has led to a greater range of more flexible applications. However, over the last few decades there has been increasing interest in UAFM and it has become increasingly important. The main reasons for this include the increased significance of nature conservation, ecosystem services, forest stability, recreational functions and difficult economic conditions. In spite of many successful practices of UAFM, its ability to integrate ecological theory and natural processes with forest stability, climate change adaptation, technological feasibility and economic efficiency are under debate. This conference is an opportunity to debate and address these issues.



**The conference objectives are to:** 1) analyse the ecological, economic and technological limitations and advantages of UAFM, 2) compare long term best practices of UAFM across different ecosystems, 3) clarify understanding of UAFM and bridge it with other silvicultural systems, and 4) discuss guidelines for the future application of UAFM.

**Conference structure:** The conference will include three days of sessions and a one day in-conference tour to traditional selection forests in Slovenia (a: Dinaric mixed forest or b: mixed family farm forests in the Alps). Each day will open with a plenary session and continue with working and poster sessions. The four-day post-conference tour will visit forests with long-term uneven-aged management practices and different research sites that range from high mountain Alpine and Dinaric mixed forests to Mediterranean forests.

**Target audience:** The conference will bridge scientific, professional and non-forestry views on uneven-aged silviculture. Forest managers, owners, practitioners, teachers, scientists, conservationists and anyone interested in the broad spectrum of the uneven-aged silvicultural paradigm are warmly welcome. A reduced fee for undergraduate and graduate students may be available.

**Themes for the working sessions** may include:

- 1) Ecological studies and old-growth forests as a reference for UAFM
- 2) Theoretical background, quantitative indicators, management planning (e.g. control method)
- 3) Modelling of UAFM (on scales ranging from individual trees to landscapes)
- 4) Ecophysiological research
- 5) Case studies of UAFM best practices
- 6) Economics and forestry operations in UAFM
- 7) UAFM in forests with emphasis on non-timber goods and services (e.g. biodiversity conservation, protection forests, etc)
- 8) Linkage of UAFM with other silvicultural systems
- 9) UAFM beyond the temperate and boreal forests biome: Mediterranean, tropical, and southern hemisphere countries

#### **Scientific Board**

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**In-conference tour: 25 September, 2010**

- a) Traditional uneven-aged management on Alpine family farms in N Slovenia
- b) From old-growth forests to uneven-aged managed forests: 120 years of applying the control-method (adaptive management) and selection silviculture

**Post-conference tour: 27 - 30 September, 2010**

4 days in Slovenia & Croatia (Alpine, Mediterranean and Dinaric forests)

**Important dates:**

Deadline for early registration - May 1, 2010

Deadline for late registration and payment closure - September 1, 2010

Deadline to send final title and abstract for review - June 1, 2010

Information via e - mail about decision of paper/poster acceptance - July 1, 2010

**Conference secretariat:** Tomaz Adamic; E – mail: [tomaz.adamic@bf.uni-lj.si](mailto:tomaz.adamic@bf.uni-lj.si)

Conference website: <http://web.bf.uni-lj.si/go/uafm2010> (available from December 1, 2009)

**A warm welcome awaits you at our Conference!**

**Organising committee**