



International Union of Forest Research Organizations

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des Instituts de
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Forschungsanstalten

IUFRO Meeting Report Form

1st Serbian Forestry Congress “Future with forests”,

Faculty for Forestry, University of Belgrade, 11-13 November

1) IUFRO focal person/meeting organizer:

Name: Ratko Ristić, Ph.D. / Marius C. Barbu, Prof.

Function (in IUFRO): Vice-dean of the Faculty of Forestry in Belgrade / Coordinator of WG 5.05.00

Email: cmbarbu@unitbv.ro / ratko.ristic@gmail.com

2) Meeting report (max. 100 words per paragraph)

Key issues discussed/latest findings in the field:

a) *Forestry*

Results of the latest researches in the fields of forest management planning, forest utilization, hunting and protection of hunting fauna, afforestation and plantation forestry, ecology and biodiversity of forest ecosystems, silviculture and improvement of forests, forest policy, economy, management and legal framework were discussed and considered.

b) *Ecological Engineering in the Protection of Soil and Water Resources*

The problems of protection against natural hazards such as floods, land slides and debris flows were discussed. Special attention was paid to the application of GIS, in risk assessment methods and hazard zones mapping, as well as the application of suitable software in hydrologic-hydraulic calculations. The connections between watershed management and spatial planning activities and the analysis of socio-economic conditions in the prevention of risk from torrential floods and destructive soil erosion processes were pointed out.

c) *Landscape Architecture and Horticulture*

The most significant topics were devoted to the design and preservation of the system of greenery in urban areas, landscape planning and historical landscape development, as well as ornamental plant production. The problem of management in protected areas in which the appearance of invasive species was observed was highlighted.

d) *Wood Science and Technologies*

The session started with a key-note on the history and current state of higher education in the field of wood science and technologies in Europe. It was followed by a series of papers dealing with anatomy and wood properties, wood processing, wood constructions and furniture design, wood based materials, organizational characteristics of production systems in wood processing industry, as well as management and marketing in wood processing.

e) *Protection of Forests, Wood and Ornamental Plants*

The latest results of the research on biology, ecology and population dynamics of forest insects and invasive alien species in forests and urban green spaces were presented. The possibility of monitoring insect populations with pheromone traps was also discussed as well as methods of assessment of the health condition of trees in urban areas. The latest findings on the protection of wood from xylophagous insects and epixyloous fungi were presented as well.

Conclusions:

Forest policy in the context of globalization is influenced by positive and negative effects of new forest legislations, sustainable forest management practices and ownership rights. Endangerment of the stability of forest ecosystems increases the risk of natural hazards such as torrential floods, destructive erosion processes and landslides. It is necessary to provide suitable socio-economic conditions in the aim of prevention of natural hazards. Aggressive and often uncontrolled urbanization led to landscape degradation which requires long-term and expensive restoration processes. Disturbances of the global ecosystem are transferred to forest ecosystems which are exposed to forest fires, aggressive insects and pathogenic fungi in many parts of the world. Sustainable utilization of wood resources requires familiarity with materials, application of adequate processing technology, top design and efficient marketing which provides positive economic effects. Renewable wood and timber based products will be increasingly used in the future because they are sustainable and provide positive energy and carbon balance.

During the past few decades an ecological crisis encompassed forest ecosystems due to the intensive degradation, decrease and fragmentation of forest covered areas, resulting in the impoverished biodiversity. Stability based on sustainable utilization, restoration and recovery of degraded forest ecosystems is one of the imperatives of civilization, impossible to achieve without the engagement of a sufficient number of competent experts. The complex issues of forestry and the related fields require a specific educational process to qualify professionals capable of getting full insight into natural resources exploitation on the one hand, and participating in meeting of the material demands of civilization on the other. At the same time, there is a need for constant efforts aimed at the creation of new initiatives and documents designed for forestry development, defining of the conditions for sustainable utilization and natural resources protection, as well as preventive activities in the protection against natural hazards. The expansion and intensification of professional communication, establishment of a common research network and knowledge and experience exchange help create common awareness of the scientific and professional community.

Outlook to future activities (*proceedings, future meetings, other*):*Proceedings:*

The Proceedings of Congress Abstracts under title: First Serbian Forestry Congress – Future with Forests, November 11th - 13th 2010, Belgrade, Serbia; 304 pages; publishing house: University of Belgrade, Faculty of Forestry; editors: Ratko Ristić, Milan Medarević, Zdravko Popović; ISBN 978 86 7299 066 9

Publication of proceedings- an electronic collection of full papers which is currently in progress, due by mid-February 2011, with an estimated number of 150 papers and about 1500 pages.

Future meetings:

Preliminary announcement of the Second Serbian Forestry Congress in four years (2014).

Other:

Preliminary and fixed arrangement of student and professor exchanges and study trips among the participating educational and scientific institutions from different countries.

Preliminary arrangement on possible future joint projects of the participating institutions and/or individuals.

Background information (*meeting context*):

The 1st Serbian Forestry Congress “Future with Forests” was organized by the Faculty of Forestry, University of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, from 11th to 13th November on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of higher education in the field of forestry. This international scientific event is the initial one and it is supposed to become a traditional event which occurs every four years.

3) Other information:

Meeting data:

Full title of the meeting: First Serbian Forestry Congress- "Future with Forests"

Date and venue: 11th-13th November 2010, The Faculty of Forestry, University of Belgrade

Meeting website: <http://www.sfb.bg.ac.rs/>

Number of participants: over 200 participants; 33 participant countries; 120 papers presented in oral presentations; 40 posters presented and exhibited.

Countries represented:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, FIRO Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland UK, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, Zambia

Organization of the meeting:

It was co-organized by the Nature Conservation Institute of Serbia and, it was scientifically supported by:

- The Ministry of Science of the Republic of Serbia,
- IUFRO, Headquarter in Vienna
- WASWC (World Association for Soil and Water Conservation),
- European Federation for Landscape Architecture (EFLA),
- International Organization for Biological Control of Noxious Animals and Plants –Palaeartic Regional Section,

All IUFRO Units involved: 5.05.00 / Generally, the topics of the Congress also covered the field of work of other IUFRO divisions but none of the units were actually involved. There were representatives of other European institutions of higher education in the scientific committee, who are members of IUFRO.

Host organization(s) and sponsor(s):

The Faculty of Forestry of the University of Belgrade (the organizer);
Nature Conservation Institute of Serbia (the co-organizer);
The Ministry of Science of the Republic of Serbia,
Bio/Technik/Chemie WITASEK PflanzenSchutz GmbH from Austria

Study tour(s) to:

November 12th (afternoon) – A study tour to the protected area of Avala mountain overlooking the city of Belgrade, the capital of Serbia situated in the south-eastern corner of the city. The surrounding area on all sides is mostly lowlands. It stands at 511 metres (1,677 ft) above sea level, which means it enters the mountain category just by 11 meters. Avala Mountain is wooded by self-planted trees and some parts of it are covered with pine forests. A visit to the Avala tower a 204.5 m (671 ft) tall telecommunication tower with a beautiful panoramic view of the surrounding area. One of the symbols of Belgrade and currently the tallest structure in Serbia and the Balkan region, pulled down during the NATO bombing on 29 April 1999 rebuilt and reopened on April 21st 2010. A break for photo taking. Although central Belgrade has a hilly terrain, the surrounding area and the land across the Sava and

Danube is mostly flat, consisting of alluvial plains and loessial plateaus. The highest point of Belgrade is Torlak hill at 303 m (994 ft). The mountains of Avala and Kosmaj lie south of the city. Special-purpose forests within the suburban zone of the city of Belgrade have the characteristics of protective reclamation forests and especially significant forests serving as “air filters” of the city and protective belts around it. The state of these forests is unfavourable due to past uncontrolled thinning and clear cutting. They are characterized by a very high percentage of stands of coppice origin (about 90%), with various stages of degradation, even-aged structure and unfavourable composition of tree species. The most significant are the forests of oak, primarily, Hungarian oak and Turkish oak, with all their coeno-ecological variants.

November 12th (evening)- A visit to the Experimental Department of the Faculty of Agriculture with its units for fruit, sweets and wine production, the Centre for Fishery and Applied Hydrobiology, the Educational Centre and the Wine cellar. The lecture on the experimental estate by the host- the manager of the department. Tasting of wines produced by the students of this faculty.

November 13th – A trip to the Protected Nature Reserve - Zasavica, located about 70 km west of Belgrade covering an area of 671 km along the Sava River. The lecture of the manager of the estate on the protected autochthonous pig, cattle and donkey breeds kept in the reserve, the surroundings characterized by the fragments of marshes, hygrophilous forests and meadows and the river ecosystem dominating the area. The area is characterized by the presence of rare and endemic species of animals, being endangered not only in Serbia but also in Europe, such as the fish *Umbra krameri* and others. A guided boat tour on the 33 km - long Zasavica river, with a detailed presentation on the local flora and fauna, the geographic features, the surrounding oak and ash forests and poplar plantations as well as the cultural specificity of the area. Going for a walk and sightseeing of the area.

Communication activities (dissemination of information about the meeting; promotion of IUFRO):

Oral and poster presentations in separate sessions.

Discussions of participants during coffee and lunch breaks, as well as during the study tours.

The printed proceedings of congress abstracts given to each participants.

The preparation of the proceedings- an electronic collection of full papers, which is currently in progress.

A CD with a detailed presentation of the Faculty of Forestry.

Promotional material of the congress given to each participant: occasional specially designed file with a logo of the congress containing: The Proceedings of Abstracts, a CD presentation on the Faculty of Forestry, a leaflet about the congress and the Faculty, a notebook and a ball point pen with the logo of the congress.

The website of the congress updated with the pictures from the opening, the field trips, evenings, the list of participants, the list of presented papers and posters and a short report.

Related publications /websites:

The proceedings of congress abstracts under title: First Serbian Forestry Congress – Future with Forests

Publication of proceedings- an electronic collection of full papers (currently in progress).

A CD with a presentation on the Faculty of Forestry.

A leaflet with brief information on the congress and the Faculty.

The conference website i.e. the website of the Faculty: <http://www.sfb.bg.ac.rs/>