



Second Announcement

International Symposium on Forest Genetic Resources

*Conservation and Sustainable Utilization
towards
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation*

**5–8 October 2009
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**



Background

The need to conserve and manage forest genetic resources (FGR) has long been recognised in international dialogue on forests but no global action plan has been developed for this purpose. For agricultural crops, the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Use of Plant Genetic Resources was adopted in 1996 but forest genetic resources issues were explicitly excluded from it. In November 2001, an International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was adopted in Rome but forest genetic resources were not included in this agreement.

Several countries in the Asia Pacific region have taken steps to implement sustainable forest management in practice and many of them are now in the process of developing and testing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. There is a need to promote conservation and management of forest genetic resources *per se* within this process. Many countries in the Asia Pacific region have signed both CBD and ITTA, improved conservation and management of FGR would help the countries to fulfil their commitments as agreed under these agreements. While these agreements recognize that countries have sovereign rights over their own biological resources, they also assign them the responsibility for conserving their biological diversity and urge them to use the biological resources in a sustainable manner. Countries are also urged to enhance technical and scientific cooperation, training and information exchange on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Achieving these goals is a challenging but essential task that will not only maintain biological diversity for future generations but also productivity and ecological functions of tropical forests under changing climatic conditions in the future.

The recently intensified debates and discussions on climate change in many international fora have introduced additional challenges in the efficient conservation and sustainable utilization of forest genetic resources. Theories and technologies are being proposed, discussed and implemented to meet these challenges for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

All these, and many other related issues, are the topics of concerns that warrant detailed studies and in-depth discussions.

Objectives

The main objective of the symposium is to review the status of national efforts in conservation and management, as well as the sustainable utilization of FGR, particularly in tropical Asia. It will also serve as platform for the various stakeholders to discuss the strategies related to conservation and management of FGR.

This symposium shall also provide opportunities for sharing and exchanging of information and experiences towards strengthening capacity in FGR conservation, management and sustainable utilization to meet the challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Date and Venue

This symposium will be held in Kuala Lumpur, 5–8 October 2009.

Who should attend?

- Scientists, researchers and academicians with interest on FGR conservation and management
- Foresters and forest department officials involved primarily in forest policy formulation
- Environmental NGOs, civil societies, local communities and all other stakeholders.

* Participants who are nationals of ITTO member states in the Asia Pacific region qualified to be fully sponsored. Priority would be given to participants from developing countries.

Tentative Programme

The symposium/conference will include overarching plenary sessions covering cross-linking issues, followed by several technical sessions for sharing experiences and knowledge.

A one-day field trip would be included to visit forest rehabilitation/restoration sites and/or research facilities.

Day 1		5 October 2009
Morning	<i>Opening</i> <i>Keynote 1</i> – Sustainable forest management and FGR conservation and management for the tropics (ITTO) <i>Keynote 2</i> – FGR conservation and management – state of the art in Asia and the Pacific (FAO) <i>Keynote 3</i> – Why FGR matters? (Bioversity International)	
Afternoon	<i>Regional update</i> – Status of Asia-Pacific FGR Cambodia Myanmar India Philippines Indonesia Thailand Malaysia Pacific Island Countries and Territories	
Day 2		6 October 2009
	<i>Technical sessions</i> FGR and biodiversity Paper – FGR and biodiversity Paper – FGR conservation and management Paper – Phytogeography and FGR FGR erosion, impacts of climate change, and biotic and abiotic disturbances Paper – biotic/abiotic factors Paper – impact of logging Paper – climate change and FGR Community involvement in FGR conservation and management Paper – China Paper – India Paper – Indonesia	
Day 3		7 October 2009
Morning	Travel to FRIM Session – Final reports for ITTO Project on FGR – Revisit the Action Plans of APFORGEN	
Afternoon	Visit FRIM Botanic Garden and other facilities	
Day 4		8 October 2009
Morning	<i>Technical sessions</i> FGR conservation and management – national status, policies and strategies Paper – China Paper – India Paper – Malaysia FGR conservation and management – databases, information clearing house, fora. Paper – Forestry/FGR information Paper – GFIS/Forestry database <i>Lunch</i>	
Afternoon	Panel Discussion – FGR conservation and management for climate change mitigation and adaptation Conclusions and recommendations Closing	

Symposium Organizers and Collaborators

The symposium is an initiative under an International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) Project on forest genetic resources. It is supported by the ITTO project and organized by the implementing agency of the project, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), and the two collaborating agencies - Asia-Pacific Association of Forest Research Institutions (APAFRI) and Bioversity International.

Other collaborators shall include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Forest Tree Breeding Centre (FTBC) Japan, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Call for Papers

The working language of the workshop will be English.

If you wish to present a paper, or exhibit a poster, send your abstract of 300–500 words to Sim Heok-Choh (simhc@frim.gov.my), copy to Hong Lay-Thong (Bioversity-Malaysia) [l.hong@cgiar.org]. Abstracts should include the full names, addresses of authors, and e-mail address for the corresponding author.

Deadlines:

Submissions of abstracts	– 15 July 2009
Notification of acceptance	– 31 July 2009
Final Papers/Presentations	– 15 September 2009

Venue

The venue will be at the
 Hotel Istana
 73 Jalan Raja Chulan
 50200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Tel: 6 03 2141 9988
 Fax: 6 03 2144 0111.

Upon request, the Secretariat will make reservations for participants at the Hotel Istana. The room rates including breakfast are:

Single	Twin
RM 230 (US\$60)	RM 260 (US\$70)

Reservations must be made through the Secretariat at least two weeks before the start of the symposium.

Contact for Enquiries

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