Old Forests, New Management

By Steve Read, Conference Committee Chair, Forestry Tasmania, Australia

An international conference entitled “Old Forests, New Management” was held in February 2008 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. The conference covered the ecology and silviculture of temperate and boreal old forests, and included insights from many large-scale, long-term, multidisciplinary experiments.

**Biology, ecology and silviculture**

The subtitle of the conference was Conservation and use of old-growth forests in the 21st century. Its core was biology, ecology and silviculture, surrounded by presentations on social, historical and regulatory aspects. The two plenary speakers captured the mood of the conference: Professor Jerry Franklin, from the University of Washington, USA, gave an overview of the biological values of old forests, noting how continued disturbance is often needed for their renewal, but also how legacy structures surviving disturbance are vital for developing complexity in the regenerating forest. Professor Jürgen Bauhus from the University of Freiburg, Germany, described the importance of silvicultural systems that develop, maintain and retain old-growth features in stands of various ages across the forested landscape.

**Modern management of old forests**

The success of the conference could be attributed to the simultaneous timeliness of the subject matter at local, national and international levels. The similarity of issues, and silvicultural and management responses, on four continents, namely Australia, North and South America, and Europe, was striking, and variable retention silviculture, a stand-level management and conservation approach using nature as a guide, is now recognized as the global standard for harvesting of old forests. The three Rs of modern management of old forests, retention, restoration and reservation, were also commonly acknowledged. One of the main messages of the conference was that a structural definition of old-growth was to be preferred to a time-since-disturbance definition since biodiversity responds to forest structural elements. Participants also pointed out the importance of a landscape-scale view of forest management outcomes. Finally, the influence of climate change was discussed from various perspectives. Climate change will change the forest landscape in unpredictable ways, most especially through altered disturbance regimes. It was also noted that old-growth forests have a complex interaction with the carbon cycle as they store substantial amounts of carbon but can either absorb or release carbon.

The program, details of speakers, and many of the presentations can be found at the conference website [www.oldforests.com](http://www.oldforests.com). Selected conference papers will be published in a special issue of Forest Ecology and Management, with selected papers of more regional interest being published in a special issue of Tasforests.

The “Old Forests, New Management” conference attracted 270 registrants from 20 countries. It was funded through the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement between the Australian Commonwealth and the Tasmanian State governments, and additional sponsorship was obtained from the Sir Mark Oliphant International Frontiers of Science and Technology conference series.

The conference was hosted by Forestry Tasmania and the Cooperative Research Centre for Forestry, with the support of IUFRO Units 4.00.00 Forest Assessment, Modelling and Management and 1.05.00 Uneven-Aged Silviculture.

The conference included a field trip to the Warra Long-Term Ecological Research site in Tasmania’s southern forests ([www.warra.com](http://www.warra.com)), site of a silvicultural systems trial investigating alternatives to clear-felling in tall eucalypt forests.
IUFRO Seeks Expert in Public Relations and Communication for a One-year Secondment

Strengthening communication and links within the scientific community and with students as well as with policy makers and society at large is one of the major goals set out in the IUFRO Strategy 2006-2010. In attaining this goal IUFRO has already taken a number of successful measures also in cooperation with the IUFRO Task Force on Communicating Forest Science. IUFRO is now inviting a public relations and communication specialist with an excellent command of English to Vienna, Austria, to work at IUFRO Headquarters for one year on secondment starting as soon as possible. IUFRO offers to contribute to the expenses of the stay to an amount to be negotiated.

If you are interested, please contact:
Dr. Peter Mayer, IUFRO Executive Director, IUFRO Headquarters, Hauptstrasse 7, 1140 Vienna, Austria, mayer(at)iufro.org

Publications

Small-scale Forestry
The international journal for multidisciplinary research into small-scale forestry

The journal presents empirical, theoretical, modeling, and methodological papers on all topics relevant to the social, economic and technical dimensions of farm, family, non-industrial and community forestry. Of particular interest to the global research community, Small-scale Forestry is also useful to both policy makers and forest managers.

Urban Forestry & Urban Greening
Issue 1 of 2008 is available online at: http://www.sciencedirect.com (Search for the journal name.) Papers deal with issues as different as feng-shui landscapes in Okinawa, Japan, the green structure of Hanoi, Vietnam, and alien plant species in South-African towns. Moreover, keep an eye out for issue 2, which will be released during early spring. Good research papers, review articles, short communications and book reviews are always welcome. For submission details, see http://ees.elsevier.com/ufug.

Special IUFRO Membership Subscription Rate!
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The yearly subscription rate for 2008/2009 is EUR 35.00 / USD 42.00 which is a 50% discount off the normal individual rate. To subscribe to the journal for this special price please follow the link to the special offer: http://www.iufro.org/auth/publications/subscription-special/ and log in to your IUFRO member account for further instructions.

IUFRO World Series Volume 9-it
Terminologia dell’ Asssestamento Forestale
Termini e definizioni nella lingua italiana
Mario Broll, Günther Unterthiner
ISSN 1016-3263; ISBN 978-3-901347-75-0
IUFRO, Vienna 2007
Price: EUR 20.-
Now available from: IUFRO Headquarters, office(at)iufro.org

Announcements

International Fellowships Available at the World Forest Institute
The World Forest Institute Fellowship Program brings forestry and natural resource professionals from around the world to work at the World Forest Institute in Portland, Oregon, USA for 6 to 12 months. Fellows conduct an independent research project developed in conjunction with his/her sponsor. Projects are typically either policy or marketing studies and may be environmental, social or economic in focus. Activities involve information gathering through interviews, meeting with forestry organizations, and taking organized field trips.

For more information visit http://wfi.worldforestry.org or contact Angie DiSalvo, a Disalvo(at)worldforestry.org.

18 to 25 October 2009
XIIIth World Forestry Congress
Buenos Aires, Argentina

First Call for Voluntary Papers and Posters
Under the theme “Forests in development – a vital balance”, the Congress will address the sustainable development of forests from a global and integrative perspective. All interested persons are invited to submit voluntary papers and posters expressing new ideas and providing information on experiences, theoretical models and interesting initiatives. Papers will be published in the Congress Proceedings and posted on the Congress’s official website.

The information or guidelines for presentations can be downloaded from the Congress webpage: http://www.wfc2009.org or requested by e-mail to: info(at)wfc2009.org
**IUFRO Meetings**

**NOTE:** The following list of meetings is just a selection! For a full list of IUFRO events, please visit our online calendar, or the homepages of IUFRO Units involved. Non-IUFRO meetings are also announced on the IUFRO Noticeboard on our web site.

8-14 June 2008  
Connection between Forest Resources and Wood Quality: Modelling Approaches and Simulation Software  
Joensuu, Finland  
IUFRO 5.01.04  
Contact: General, iufro2008.jns@joensuu.fi  

15-20 June 2008  
IUFRO All Division 3 Conference  
Sapporo, Japan  
IUFRO 3.00.00  
Contact: Rin Saura, J FES@hatch.fr.a.u-tokyo.ac.jp  

14-18 July 2008  
Ground Bio- and Eco-engineering: The Use of Vegetation to Improve Slope Stability  
Beijing, China  
IUFRO 8.03.00  
Contact: Gernot Fiebig, g@fiebig.de  
http://www.cosmap.rain.fr/crmmsamedible/index.php

25-28 August 2008  
Adaptation of Forests and Forest Management to Climate Change with Emphasis on Forest Health - Review of Science, Policies, and Practices  
Umeå, Sweden  
IUFRO, SLU, FAO  
Contact: Björn Hanell, bjorn.hanell(at)sko.slu.se  

25-28 August 2008  
IUFRO-CTIA 2008 Joint Meeting : Adaptation, Breeding and Conservation in the Era of Forest Tree Genomics and Environmental Change  
Québec, Canada  
IUFRO 2.04.09, 2.04.10  
Contact: General, info@iufro-ctia2008.ca  

26-30 August 2008  
Toward the Establishment of the Multi-purpose and Long-term Forest Management Plans  
Tsuzuoka, Yamagata, Japan  
IUFRO 4.02.02  
Contact: Yoshihiro Nobori, yonobori(at)tsuzuoka-u.ac.jp  
http://www.yamagata-u.ac.jp/~js/11m/

8-12 September 2008  
8th IUFRO International Beech Symposium and Field Tour  
Nanae, Japan  
IUFRO 1.01.07  
Contact: Palle Madsen, Email: pam(insert at)life.ku.dk  
http://www6.occ.ne.jp/%7Fbeech08/

15-19 September 2008  
Methodology of Forest Insect and Disease Survey in Central Europe  
Stribské Pleso, Slovakia  
IUFRO 7.03.10  
Contact: Andrej Kunca, kunca@nlnsk.org  

13-16 October 2008  
Traditional Forest-related Knowledge and Sustainable Forest Management in Africa  
Accra, Ghana  
IUFRO TF on Traditional Forest Knowledge, CSIR, University of Ghana  
Contact: Alfred Oteng-Yeboah, otengyeboah(at)yahoo.co.uk;  
John Pamotta, j.pamotta(at)fsf.ed.us  
http://www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/traditional-forest-knowledge/activities/

30-31 October 2008  
Water and Forests: a Convenient Truth?  
Barcelona, Spain  
IUFRO TF on Forest and Water Interactions, EFI etc.  
Contact: Marc Palahí, marc.palahi(at)efi.int  
http://www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/water/activities-and-events/

24-26 November 2008  
Figures for Forests  
Freiburg, Germany  
IUFRO 4.05.00  
Contact: Shashi Kant, shashi.kant(at)utoronto.ca  
http://figuresforforests.fva-bw.de

**Non-IUFRO Meetings**

7-9 April 2008  
International Seminar: Proyectos MDL y Mercados Voluntarios en el Sector Forestal  
Bogotá, Colombia  
Organized by CONIF  
http://www.conif.org.co

20-29 April 2008  
INBAR Bamboo Study Tour  
Zhejiang and Sichuan Province, China  
Contact: FU Jinhe, jfu(at)inbar.int

16-18 June 2008  
ISA European Congress of Arboriculture  
Turin, Italy  
http://www.isa-europeancongress.eu/

6-8 November 2008  
The European Forest-based Sector: Bio-responses to Address New Climate and Energy Challenges?  
Nancy, France  
Contact: jean-luc.peyron, jean-luc.peyron(at)gip-ecofor.org;  
http://www.gip-ecofor.org