Forests are more than carbon - World Forestry Congress sent a message to Copenhagen climate summit including key findings of recent IUFRO-led study

In a strong statement to the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), delegates to the 13th World Forestry Congress (WFC) held in October in Argentina express their great concern about the impacts of climate change on forests and call for urgent action. COP 15 will be convened from 7 to 18 December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The WFC underlines the key role of forests in and beyond the global climate change debate. It sees a pressing need to strengthen the capacity of forests to adapt to climate change and to promote mitigation efforts not only with a view to ensuring the contribution of forests to regulating the global carbon balance. Forests are more than carbon, they provide multiple ecosystem services such as water, food and commercial forest products to all of us, and they are warrantors of the livelihood and cultural identity of indigenous peoples and forest-dependent local communities. In this context, forest protection, restoration and the conservation of biodiversity should be of top priority worldwide.

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) has a significant share in the WFC’s message. At the WFC „Forum on Forests and Climate Change“,” Professor Risto Seppälä from the Finnish Forest Research Institute and Chair of the IUFRO-led Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) presented the key results of the Panel’s Global Assessment Report to an audience of over 2000.

Seppälä warned that rising temperatures will reduce adaptation possibilities and, as a result of climate change, forests may turn from carbon sinks to net emission sources of carbon in the coming decades. He explained that sustainable forest management is essential for reducing the vulnerability of forests to climate change and pointed out that unmitigated climate change would, during the course of the current century, exceed the adaptive capacity of many forests even if adaptation measures are fully implemented. These findings of the study were eventually included in the WFC’s message to the COP15.

In its statement the WFC also addresses the issue of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). At the WFC Panel on “REDD Initiatives for Early Action” moderated by Peter Mayer, IUFRO Executive Director, delegates underscored the importance of reducing poverty as a major driving force behind deforestation. Actions of REDD plus recognizing the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks in developing countries should definitely be included in the agreement on long-term cooperative action under the UNFCCC.

Useful links:
  - COP 15: http://en.cop15.dk/

(IUFRO Press Release, 12 November 2009)

13 December 2009: Forest Day 3
Radisson SAS Falconer Hotel in Copenhagen, Denmark
http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/Events/ForestDay3/Introduction/

Will northern forests be able to stand the heat?
Boreal forests cover one third of the Earth’s forested area and have been estimated to contain up to 30% of all carbon stored in terrestrial biomes. The region is expected to experience more warming than equatorial zones and its temperature-limited forests will therefore particularly suffer. But will they be able to stand the heat?

At a Learning Event jointly organized by IUFRO and the European Forest Institute on 13 December 2009 during Forest Day 3 in Copenhagen, Denmark, a panel of renowned scientists and stakeholders will discuss projected impacts of climate change on boreal and temperate forests, and how to reduce their vulnerability and increase their adaptive capacity.


Abstract submission deadline: 31 December 2009

XXIII IUFRO World Congress
23-28 August 2010, Seoul, Republic of Korea
http://www.iufro2010.com/
In a globalized world where technology at the workplace is rapidly changing, continuous professional training is gaining in importance. The wood-working industry characterized by constant technological development and product innovation and the emergence of new markets is no exception here. Against this background, a training course organized by the International Wood Academy of Hamburg, Germany, and co-sponsored by IUFRO WP 5.05.00 took place at Walailak University near Nakhon Si Thammarat in Southern Thailand from October 5 to 10, 2009. At the course 35 participants from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Laos and Vietnam gathered specific knowledge about the manufacturing process and the applications of wood-based panels. In view of the increasing economical relevance of particle- and fibre-based composites, the course focused especially on these materials.

Recently, South Asia has developed into a leading region concerning wood-based panel manufacturing with several MDF (medium density fibreboard) and particleboard plants equipped with high technology. The IWA, in cooperation with the Walailak University, worked out an English course schedule to specifically meet the demands of employees in the middle and higher positions of the wood-based composites industry in the region. Therefore employees of several local manufacturers as well as employees of internationally operating adhesive manufacturers participated in the five-day course. Additionally, seven scholarships were awarded by the organizer to scientists mainly from the region.

While maintaining a high academic standard, this training program also offered an opportunity for professionals from companies and research institutes in South-East Asia and neighbouring regions to get easy access to a comprehensive and up-to-date knowledge on wood-based panels since the continuous expansion of staff knowledge is essential for the industries, R&D organisations and universities to remain competitive in the market. The overall conception of the course, originally developed for courses in Germany, was adapted to the local conditions and closely linked specific basic knowledge with the transfer of application-oriented competence. A special focus was put on the individual processes, the adhesion technology as well as on the markets, standards, ecological aspects and costs. Laboratory training lessons where the participants manufactured laboratory panels, tested their properties and applied computer based simulation techniques of the manufacturing process, rounded off the course.

Title of the course: International Training Course on Wood-Based Panels: Processes, Properties and Uses
Date and venue: 5th-10th October 2009
Walailak University, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand
Meeting website: http://wood.wu.ac.th/woodtraining/home.html
Number of participants: 37 participants and 12 speakers
Countries represented: Participants: Thailand, Romania, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Laos
Speakers: Romania, Germany, Austria, Belgium and Thailand
Hosted/organized by: Walailak University (Thailand); International Wood Academy, University of Hamburg (Germany); Faculty of Wood Industry, “Transilvania” University of Brasov (Romania)
IUFRO New Media Coming Through!
By Tarun Bathija, PR and Communications, IUFRO HQ

Since October you can comment our blog post and follow our tweets, and, thus, interact with us directly via these new media. What does this really mean, will you benefit from this, how does it work? Can you be a part of it, too?

In preparing several promotional activities leading up to the XXIII IUFRO World Congress and using various social media, we hope to generate more interest and raise awareness for IUFRO and the next Congress. Our main objective is to be able to relate better with you and our international audiences.

The IUFRO Blog
http://theiufroblog.wordpress.com

The blog is an attractive communications tool that can be very effective for the collection of feedback and for understanding your perception on specific issues. IUFRO would like to get your comments about the blog entries (short articles) that are published.

We will communicate about; different events that took place, stories promoting the XXIII IUFRO World Congress, training workshops, the latest achievements relating to IUFRO, our staff, our members, our officeholders, and all the latest information about IUFRO.

Visit our blog and comment on different articles!

Follow IUFRO on Twitter
http://twitter.com/iufro

Twitter is a service to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent messages. We write short updates, called “tweets” of 140 characters or less. The concept is to connect with different people or institutions by following them and receiving their “tweets”. If you would like to know when IUFRO “tweets”, then you need to be a so-called IUFRO “follower” on twitter, by having your own twitter account.

Follow IUFRO on twitter, it’s really easy!

Global Forest Information Service - GFIS

Release of GFIS Strategic Plan

This document provides conceptual information regarding GFIS operations and development. This Strategic Plan is based on extensive consultations and participatory decision-making among all partners involved in GFIS, particularly the members of the GFIS Steering Committee. The Strategic Plan is intended for use by the entire global forestry community; both information providers and information users.

GFIS Blog http://www.gfis.net/blog

Forest professionals around the world share their ideas and experience on matters such as forest information management. The blog also contains GFIS workshop material. You are welcome to comment or write posts.

GFIS in Twitter http://twitter.com/GFIS_net

In Twitter you can keep up to date with what’s going on in GFIS and forestry by following and commenting the GFIS_net tweets.

GFIS in Facebook

If you have joined in Facebook, you are also warmly welcome to join in a GFIS group. See: http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/ group.php?gid=177237995089&ref=mf

RSS Feeds

In spite of the social media RSS feeds remain the principal way of sharing information in GFIS. Through RSS feeds and GFIS gateway you can share your information to the global forestry community efficiently and easily.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us!
Write to: gfis_coordinator(at)iufro.org; visit: www.gfis.net

Promoting the IUFRO World Congress 2010!

Feel free to copy/paste the four lines below into your personal email address from the above website:

XXIII IUFRO World Congress
Forests for the Future:
Sustaining Society and the Environment
23-28 August 2010, Seoul, Republic of Korea
http://www.iufro2010.com

IUFRO Proceedings Archive!
http://www.iufro.org/publications/proceedings/

In our electronic Proceedings Archive, you will find IUFRO conference proceedings mostly in PDF, freely available for download. In some cases, there are links to scientific journals where individual articles can be downloaded. Or we offer a Book of Abstracts.

If you want to get the proceedings of your IUFRO conference or meeting into these pages, do not hesitate to contact us at: office(at)iufro.org. Of course, we are also happy to archive printed courtesy copies of your conference proceedings.

Featured IUFRO Member of the Month!

The IUFRO homepage has a new item called “Featured Member of the Month”. This item will introduce our Member Organizations to our website visitors.

Do you want to be a “Featured Member”? What we need is a description of your institution (approximately half a page) highlighting your recent research activities, together with a link to your institution’s website and maybe a picture. Let us and our website visitors also know why membership in IUFRO is important for your institution!

Send your entries to our email address office(at)iufro.org!

IUFRO New Media Coming Through!
By Tarun Bathija, PR and Communications, IUFRO HQ

Since October you can comment our blog post and follow our tweets, and, thus, interact with us directly via these new media. What does this really mean, will you benefit from this, how does it work? Can you be a part of it, too?

In preparing several promotional activities leading up to the XXIII IUFRO World Congress and using various social media, we hope to generate more interest and raise awareness for IUFRO and the next Congress. Our main objective is to be able to relate better with you and our international audiences.

The IUFRO Blog
http://theiufroblog.wordpress.com

The blog is an attractive communications tool that can be very effective for the collection of feedback and for understanding your perception on specific issues. IUFRO would like to get your comments about the blog entries (short articles) that are published.

We will communicate about; different events that took place, stories promoting the XXIII IUFRO World Congress, training workshops, the latest achievements relating to IUFRO, our staff, our members, our officeholders, and all the latest information about IUFRO.

Visit our blog and comment on different articles!

Follow IUFRO on Twitter
http://twitter.com/iufro

Twitter is a service to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent messages. We write short updates, called “tweets” of 140 characters or less. The concept is to connect with different people or institutions by following them and receiving their “tweets”. If you would like to know when IUFRO “tweets”, then you need to be a so-called IUFRO “follower” on twitter, by having your own twitter account.

Follow IUFRO on twitter, it’s really easy!

Global Forest Information Service - GFIS

Release of GFIS Strategic Plan

This document provides conceptual information regarding GFIS operations and development. This Strategic Plan is based on extensive consultations and participatory decision-making among all partners involved in GFIS, particularly the members of the GFIS Steering Committee. The Strategic Plan is intended for use by the entire global forestry community; both information providers and information users.

GFIS Blog http://www.gfis.net/blog

Forest professionals around the world share their ideas and experience on matters such as forest information management. The blog also contains GFIS workshop material. You are welcome to comment or write posts.

GFIS in Twitter http://twitter.com/GFIS_net

In Twitter you can keep up to date with what’s going on in GFIS and forestry by following and commenting the GFIS_net tweets.

GFIS in Facebook

If you have joined in Facebook, you are also warmly welcome to join in a GFIS group. See: http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/ group.php?gid=177237995089&ref=mf

RSS Feeds

In spite of the social media RSS feeds remain the principal way of sharing information in GFIS. Through RSS feeds and GFIS gateway you can share your information to the global forestry community efficiently and easily.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us!
Write to: gfis_coordinator(at)iufro.org; visit: www.gfis.net
Publications

Plantations and Biodiversity: Oxymoron or Opportunity?
Series: Topics in Biodiversity and Conservation , Vol. 9
This book, which can be regarded as the product of 3 IUFRO meetings and collaboration between at least 3 IUFRO Divisions (1, 7 & 8) plus IUCN, WWF and others, brings together a selection of original research articles that address biodiversity and conservation in plantation forests.
http://springer.com/978-90-481-2806-8

Proceedings
Proceedings of the 9th International Symposium on Legal Aspects of European Sustainable Development. Forest Research Experimental Center, MoNP, Yerevan.
IUFRO 6.13.00 Publications

Science of Wood Technology: Structure-Properties-Utilization
By George Tsouris
This book deals, in a comprehensive manner, with the anatomical, chemical, physical, and mechanical characteristics of wood, as well as with up-to-date technologies of industrial production. Identification keys are included for all the woods discussed.
Published by Kessel; Reprint of the 1991 edition (Van Nostrand Reinhold); ISBN: 978-3-941300-22-4; 494 pages
http://www.verlagkessel.de

ICRU Brochure
ICRU recently developed a new brochure to promote its activities and help explain its role in international science.
Resource Centre of ICSU Website

Good Practice Guide on Sustainable Forest Management: Biodiversity and Livelihoods
Published by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
The guide includes references to and examples from relevant work by members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). Free hard copies: secretariat(at)cbd.int
More information: http://www.cbd.int/forest/

Efficient Processing and Utilization of On-farm Tree Products Through Skill Improvement and Use of New Sawing Technologies
Report by George M Muthike, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO 5.06.01 Utilization of Dry Area Timber. IUFRO 5.06.01 Activities

Reproduction sexuée des conifères et production de semences en vergers à graines
Gwenaël Philippe, Patrick Baldet, Bernard Héois, Christian Ginisty (publication available in French)
IUFRO 2.02.07 Publications

Announcements

Shaping forest communication in the European Union: public perceptions of forests and forestry
The first EU 27 level survey on public perceptions on forests and forestry is already available via the DG AGRI website: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/fore/publi/index_en.htm
(Information provided by Tamas Sziedliak, EU Commission, DG-Agrı, tamas.sziedliak(at)ec.europa.eu)

Outcomes of the UNECE’s 67th Session of the Timber Committee
Market Statement UNECE Region Forest Products Markets Forecast to turn up in 2010 – Is this the start of a recovery?
http://www.unece.org/press/pr2009/09tim_p06e.htm
(also in French language)

CBD has Partnered with ECOLEX
The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has partnered with ECOLEX to provide readily accessible information on biodiversity-related laws and policies. Visit: https://www.cbd.int/ecolex/
ECOLEX is a web-based information service operated jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). ECOLEX is the most comprehensive global source of national and international environmental and natural resources law and policy.

New International Disaster Research Programme
The International Council for Science (ICSU) announced that China will host the office of the new international programme, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) that will undertake co-ordinated, interdisciplinary research leading to more effective societal responses to the risks associated with natural and human-induced environmental hazards. The International Programme Office for IRDR will be established in Beijing at the Headquarters of the Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth (CEODE).
For more information, contact:
Howard Moore, howard.moore(at)icsu.org or visit IRDR:
http://www.icsu.org/1_icsuinsurance/ENVI_Hazards_1.html

Planting Trees to Lock up Carbon
(from a press release by the UK Forestry Commission)
In the United Kingdom, an independent panel of scientists recently published the first national assessment of the potential of the UK’s forests to mitigate climate change, and all requirements to ensure they can successfully adapt to our new conditions. The assessment - believed to be the first national study of its type in the world – concluded that if an extra four per cent of the United Kingdom’s land were planted with new woodland over the next 40 years, it could be locking up ten per cent of the nation’s predicted greenhouse gas emissions by the 2050s.
Further information on the Read report is available at
http://www.forestry.gov.uk/climatechange
PhD Candidates Sought for International Forest Policy
As part of an international joint doctoral programme of seven European Universities (http://www.fonaso.eu), the opportunity for a PhD in the research field of international forest policy funded by the EU is offered.

Highly qualified PhD candidates are sought for the topic “The international forest regime as driver for sustainable national forest policies.” Applicants should hold a degree in forestry with an emphasis on social sciences or a degree in political science and interest in forest-related national and international policy (e.g., forestry, climate or biodiversity policy). Candidates have to apply for the scholarship with a short proposal related to the above topic.

IIASA Young Scientists Summer Program
1-27 August 2010
Summer Fellowship in Austria for graduate students in Natural and Social Sciences, Math, Policy and Engineering.

Funding is available to cover travel to IIASA and a modest living allowance, http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Admin/YSP/reg-info/more_about_the_programme.html
Applications deadline: 18 January 2010

IIASA is an international institution, supported by the US and 16 other governments, engaged in scientific research in the following fields: energy and technology; natural resources and environment; population and society. Visit: http://www.iiasa.ac.at/

UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences 2009
The Prize of USD 300,000, funded through the Obiang Nguema Mbasogo Foundation for the Preservation of Life, Equatorial Guinea, rewards projects and activities of an individual or group of individuals, scientific institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations who have contributed through research in the life sciences to improving the quality of human life.

Nominations come from Governments, in consultation with the National Commissions, or from NGOs in operational relations with UNESCO. Self-nominations will not be considered. The nominations should reach UNESCO no later than: 30 December 2009.

Contact: Mr Maciej Nalecz
Fax: +33 (0)1 45 68 58 21
E-mail: lifesciencesprize(at)unesco.org

Contribute to ICSU Foresight Analysis
The ICSU foresight analysis will inform the development and implementation of ICSU’s next strategic plan 2012–2017. ICSU seeks your personal opinion on the “key drivers” of the development of international science over the next 20 years. Submit your ideas before 25 January 2010 via: http://www.icsu.org/1_icsuinscience/INIT FORESIGHT_3.php4

IUFRO Meetings
NOTE: This is not a full list of IUFRO meetings!
Search our online calendar for a full list of meetings. Find non-IUFRO meetings on the IUFRO Noticeboard. Also search for forest-related events at http://www.gfis.net

28-29 December 2009
International Expert Workshop on the Emerging Issues in Climate Change:
State of Tropospheric Temperature, Pollution, Melting Glaciers and their Potential Impact on Monsoon in the Himalayas-Tibetan Plateau & A Special Session on the Impact of Warming on High Altitude Vegetation in the Himalayas
New Delhi, India
Sponsored by UNEP; co-sponsored by IUFRO-SPDC
Contact: Atin Kumar Tyagi, atin.tyagi(at)igrec.in

18-22 January 2010
11th International IUFRO Wood Drying Conference: Recent Advances in the field of Wood Drying
Skellefteå, Sweden
IUFRO 5.00.00, 5.04.00, 5.04.06
Contact: Lena Anttii, lena.anttii(at)ltu.se
http://www.wdc2010.org/

22-26 March 2010
4th International Casuarina Meeting
Haikou, Hainan, China
IUFRO 2.08.02
Contact: Antoine Kalinganire, a.kalinganire(at)cgiar.org
Zhong Chonglu, zcl(at)irif.ac.cn

12-14 April 2010
International Conference on the Efforts in Response to Forest-Related Natural Disasters
Beijing, China
IUFRO 8.00.00
Contact: Alex Mosseler, amosseler(at)nrcan.gc.ca; Maria Patek, maria.patek(at)lebensministerium.at
http://www.gfsf2010.org/

20-22 April 2010
SmallWood 2010
Hot Springs, Arkansas, United States
IUFRO 5.00.00
Contact: conferences(at)forestprod.org
http://www.forestprod.org/smallwood2010/

3-6 May 2010
Fourth International Rusts of Forest Trees
Florence, Italy
IUFRO 7.02.05
Contact: Salvatore Moricca, salvatore.moricca(at)unifi.it

4-7 May 2010
Future of quality control for wood & wood products
Edinburgh, United Kingdom
COST E53
25-27 May 2010
SWC2010 International Conference: People, Forests and the Environment: Coexisting in Harmony
Casablanca, Morocco
IUFRO 8.00.00, 7.01.00
Contact: Mohammed Ellatif, mellatif(at)yahoo.fr

31 May-2 Jun 2010
12th International Symposium on Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development
Nikosia, Cyprus
IUFRO 6.13.00
Contact: Peter Herbst, hp(at)net4you.co.at

6-12 June 2010
Small Scale Forestry in a Changing World
Bled, Slovenia
IUFRO 3.08.00, 6.06.02, 6.06.01
Contact: Jurij Begus, jurij.begus(at)zgs.gov.si
http://www.iufroextension.org

13-18 June 2010
WorldDendro 2010 - 8th Dendrochronology Conference
Rovaniemi, Finland
IUFRO 5.01.07, 4.01.04
Contact: Margaret Devall, mdevall(at)fs.fed.us; Heinrich Spiecker, instww(at)uni-freiburg.de

20-22 June 2010
Forest Products Society: 64th International Convention
Madison, Wisconsin, United States
IUFRO 5.00.00
Contact: Julie Lang, conferences(at)forestprod.org
http://www.forestprod.org/ic2010callforpapers.html

23-26 June 2010
IAWA, IAWS & IUFRO Conference: Celebrating 100 years of Wood Science and Wood Anatomy on the occasion of the first Centenary of the Forest Products Laboratory
Madison, WI, United States
IUFRO 5.01.00
Contact: Regis B. Miller, miller1(at)wisc.edu

11-14 July 2010
Forestry Mechanization - FORMEC 2010
Padova, Italy
IUFRO 3.06.00
Contact: Raffaele Cavalli, raffaele.cavalli(at)unipd.it

19-21 August 2010
Advances in Somatic Embryogenesis of Trees And Its Application for the Future Forests and Plantations
Suwon, Korea
IUFRO 2.09.02
Contact: Heung-Kyu Moon, hkmoon(at)korea.kr
http://www.iufro-kfri2010.ca

7-10 September 2010
Larix 2010 – 7th Int’l Symposium IUFRO Working Party
2.02.07: From Larch genetics and breeding to silviculture
Syktyvkar, Russia
IUFRO 2.02.07
Contact: Aleksey Fedorkov, fedorkov(at)ib.komisc.ru

23-26 September 2010
7th IUFRO Workshop on Uneven-aged Silviculture:
21st Century forestry; integrating ecologically based, uneven-aged silviculture with increased demand for forests
Lubljana, Slovenia
IUFRO 1.05.00
Contact: Jurij Diaci, jurij.diaci(at)bf.uni-lj.si
http://web bf.uni-lj.si/go/uafm2010/

Other meetings

15-19 February 2010
IV Southern Connection Congress
Bariloche, Argentina

15-16 March 2010
Biorefineries and Bio-Based Products Congress and Exhibition
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Co-located with World Biofuels Markets Conference
Contact: caroline.bissell(at)greenpowerconferences.com
http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk/v8-12/Prospectus/index.php?EventCode=BR1003NL

12-14 April 2010
42nd Annual Air Pollution Workshop
Asheville, North Carolina, USA
Hosted by: Steve McNulty, USDA Forest Service, and David Grantz, University of California-Riverside
Contact: Marcus Schaub, marcus.schaub(at)wsl.ch
http://www.apworkshop.org/

13-15 April 2010
Dubai International Wood and Wood Products Show 2010
Dubai Airport Expo
Woodshow 2010 will feature a wide range of technology brands, covering the entire wood industry production chain.
http://www.dubaiwoodshow.com/home.php

12-16 July 2010
5th International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology
Houston, Texas, United States
American Academy of Sciences
Contact: env-conference(at)AAAScience.org
http://www.AAAScience.org/conference/env/2010

9-13 August 2010
PRIFOR 2010
Sundsvall, Sweden
Mid-Sweden University
Contact: Bengt Gunnar Jonsson, bengt-gunnar.jonsson(at)miun.se
http://www.priorfor2010.org/