Modelling Forest Ecosystems

By Hubert Hasenauer, Institute of Silviculture, BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO 4.01.00

From 1-2 March 2012 the final meeting of COST action 0603 “Forest models for research and decision support in sustainable forest management” took place in Pierroton (Bordeaux), France. This COST Action was supported by 25 signatory countries from across Europe and was chaired by Professor Margarida Tomé of the Instituto Superior de Agronomia at the Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, and IUFRO Division 4 Coordinator.

The mission of the COST Action was to promote and develop methodologies to improve forest models in support of the sustainable management of forests. It aimed to enhance the quality and consistency of forest growth models in simulating the responses of forests to alternative managerial and climate scenarios. Regional variations in modelling concepts have evolved depending on the background of the model developers and society needs, and these were explored at the meeting.

The various aspects of forest modelling were dealt with in four Working Groups:

Working Group 1: Inventory and review of existing models;
Working Group 2: Underlying concepts and theories, model extensions;
Working Group 3: Data-model interactions;
Working Group 4: Applying models at different temporal and spatial scales.

Results were published in a special issue of the Forest Systems journal, available at: http://recyt.fecyt.es/index.php/IA/issue/view/861/showToc

The Cost Action supported a large number of Short Term Scientific Missions to initiate and support collaboration among young scientists. One of the highlights of the COST Action was the International Spring School “Modelling Forest Ecosystems - Concepts, Data and Applications” held in Kaprun, Austria from 9-13 May 2011. More than 30 Ph.D. students and early Post Docs and 6 lecturers elaborated the principles, problems, requirements and purposes of ecosystem modelling. During workshops the participants were introduced to different models and conducted simulations with the various software programs available. During the field excursions to sub-alpine forests the applicability and limitations of the models could be discussed.

A summary of concepts in ecosystem modelling and of the current modelling research of the participants was published in a proceedings book available from the Institute of Silviculture of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences: http://www.wabo.boku.ac.at/waldbau_aktuell.html

More information on the content of the COST Action and the publication activities are available online at: http://www.isa.utl.pt/del/fp0603forestmodels/.

IUFRO Spotlight #7

Setting an ‘Earthy’ Standard

By Jean-Michel Carnus, Coordinator, IUFRO Division 8 (INRA, France)

New Humus forms, in a structured dynamic system of classification.

Since 2003, 26 European specialists in humus forms have been working to develop a standardized system of classifying the condition and configuration of topsoil layers adapted to European ecological conditions.

The result of their work could become an international reference, of which, none exists today. (...)

The main challenge the specialists have sought to address is the lack of harmony that exists in classification keys for...
humus forms – they are different in every European country. Those classification differences mean that data cannot be easily exchanged among research teams, land managers and policy makers working with soils in different countries.

The specialists’ aim is to improve the compatibility of those established national classification systems and to develop a unified European reference base for humus forms. The classification system is geared primarily to West European countries between 40-60 degrees of latitude, but it’s expected to work in other ecosystems of equivalent climate. It has already been successfully tested in some forests in Iran. (...) Read this and other Spotlight editions. View the full report (summarized as published article).

IUFRO Task Force on International Forest Governance Meets with Indonesian Practitioners in Singapore

By Benjamin Cashore (IUFRO Task Force Coordinator), Devin Judge-Lord (masters research assistant) and Michael Stone, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, USA

The IUFRO Task Force on International Forest Governance convened in February following the release of the 2011 Global Forest Expert Panel’s assessment report “Embracing Complexity – Meeting the Challenges of International Forest Governance.” One of the key findings of the assessment was the need to foster policy integration and stakeholder learning towards problem solving “on the ground.” The Task Force meeting in Singapore was the first of three “founding” meetings that brought together key forest governance experts with global, national and local foci, along with practitioners from Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand. Practitioners illustrated real-world problems while the academic participants worked to suggest potential training and capacity development solutions.

Practitioners highlighted major issues including land tenure, how to support ‘best practices’, and the trials of changing waves of popular initiatives (e.g. REDD). The guest practitioners cast an image of great opportunity and work to be done improving Indonesian forest governance. For instance, it is now acceptable to talk about major themes such as “tenure reform” and “corruption”, but many components of forest governance they desire are still missing. It is easier for community groups to request permits/recognizing the help of NGOs, but there is not enough NGO capacity to meet demand. There is also much debate regarding the appropriate roles of the national government and local governments in issuing harvesting permits.

Several proposals were put forward regarding how to involve local practitioners, communities, and academics in the global research agenda on forest governance and how to incorporate knowledge generated into relevant training and broader capacity-building efforts. The hope is that proposals both include practitioners to improve research and use research to build capacity on the ground. For instance, a suggestion that Indonesian practitioners could learn from other countries sparked a long discussion about academics’ role in elucidating best practices.

After hearing from practitioners, the Task Force brainstormed potential next directions including practitioner-relevant “living” policy briefs and regular trainings that both meet the needs of practitioners and allow practitioners to “peer-review” policy briefs and generate questions for further academic research.

Learning

Two major themes emerged with respect to gaps in policy learning: assessment of needs and assessment of effectiveness. It quickly became clear that different stakeholders needed different kinds of information delivered in different formats. It is critical to know the long-term effects and impacts of current efforts, but very difficult to measure the effect of any single initiative or intervention on forest governance since both learning and management changes often occur in complex situations over long time horizons. In the near term, the group asked: what kind of incentive structures can training and capacity development unleash? If they are different for different groups, how can they come to fruition simultaneously? Addressing these gaps will require new approaches to scholarship and monitoring.

Integration/Interaction

Given the fragmentation of authority and proliferation of hundreds of institutions and processes at the international level, institutions for forest governance need to be better connected. Current frameworks and processes need not be replaced. Rather, the Task Force committed to thinking through both how processes relate to others and to the problem they are addressing. Again, it is critical to link processes and orient scientists toward problems on the ground. For example, if scientists can link research to popular initiatives such as REDD+ and legality verification, it could help make these initiatives more durable and effective at solving the problem. Social scientists are well equipped to bring studies of power into integration or interaction, but International Relations scholars usually ‘black box’ local processes and local scholars sometimes ‘black box’ international processes. The Task Force on International Forest Governance aims to create space for the cross-cutting scholarly conversations needed to overcome these challenges.
The IUFRO World Congress “Forests for the Future: Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: The Role of Research” to be held on 5-11 October 2014 in Salt Lake City, USA, will be an opportunity to honour outstanding scientific achievements and contributions to forestry with a range of IUFRO Awards. You are invited to nominate suitable candidates for the various categories of awards as listed below. The deadline for submission of nominations will be 31 August 2013.

Scientific Achievement Award (SAA)
Up to 10 awards will be given in recognition of distinguished individual scientific achievements within the fields of research covered by IUFRO.

Nominations may be made by a member of the nominee’s parent organization, by Coordinators of Divisions, Research Groups, Working Parties and Task Forces, and by other officeholders and knowledgeable persons associated with the Union (but no self-nominations). Nominees must either belong to Member Organizations or be Individual Members of IUFRO.

Outstanding Doctoral Research Award (ODRA)
One award per IUFRO Division will be given to recognize outstanding individual scientific achievements among young Doctoral researchers within six years after the dissertation and to encourage further work within the fields of research covered by IUFRO.

Nominations may be made by a member of the nominee’s parent organization, by Coordinators of Divisions, Research Groups, Working Parties, Task Forces and by other officeholders and knowledgeable persons associated with the Union (but no self-nominations). Nominees must either belong to IUFRO Member Organizations or be Individual Members of IUFRO.

IUFRO Student Award for Excellence in Forest Sciences (ISA)
This award recognizes outstanding individual achievements in forest science made by Masters degree students (or equivalent) during university studies or within 3 years after graduation within the 5-year Congress period, in order to encourage their further work within the fields of research covered by IUFRO.

Up to three awards may be presented for work related to the main theme and sub-themes of the IUFRO World Congress. Nominations can be made through IUFRO Members and through the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) via the IFSA Secretariat/Liaison officer.

For all three categories, the Award shall consist of:
- a certificate, the most economical cost of (air) travel/subsidized travel to attend the World Congress, and waiver of the Congress registration fee.

The SAA will be presented at the opening or closing ceremony of the World Congress. For the ODRA and ISA, the awards will be presented in a special plenary session where awardees are given the opportunity to present highlights of their award winning work. All award winners will be announced in a special issue of IUFRO News and in other media.

Furthermore, the Congress 2014 will also offer:

Best Poster Award (BPA)
To encourage public dissemination of high quality research and to recognize distinguished poster presentations during the IUFRO World Congress by young scientists under 35 years of age at the time of the IUFRO World Congress. Poster presentations will be judged directly at the IUFRO World Congress.

IUFRO World Congress Host Scientific Award
This award honours a truly outstanding scientist from the Congress host country who has elevated the profile of forest science and research.

For more information and nomination forms, please check the website: http://www.iufro.org/discover/awards/

Please send your nominations to the Executive Director of IUFRO, Mr. Alexander Buck at: office@iufro.org with a copy to the Chair of the IUFRO Honours & Awards Committee, Professor Shirong Liu at: liusr@caf.ac.cn or liusr9311@163.com before 31 August 2013.

Other Awards

European Young Urban Forster of the Year 2012
The award is made annually at the European Forum of Urban Forestry. The award is intended to recognize excellence by a young person in either (i) urban forestry practice and/or (ii) urban forestry research. Completed application forms and attachments should be sent to Cecil Konijnendijk <cck(at)life.ku.dk> to arrive no later than the 1 May 2012. http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/#c51

Marcus Wallenberg Prize Winner 2012
Mika Severi Viljanmaa from Finland will be awarded the 2012 Marcus Wallenberg Prize for his ground-breaking development of metal belt calendering technology resulting in better paper print surfaces with less fibre materials and higher production efficiency. The invention also paves the way for applications in pressing and drying with the opportunity of becoming a wider platform technology expected to substantially enhance production efficiency, competitiveness and sustainability of paper and board making.

The Marcus Wallenberg Prize is an international prize that was established in 1980 to acknowledge the lifetime activities and the memory of Marcus Wallenberg, the late Chairman of Stora Kopparbergs Bergslags AB (now Stora Enso). For more information, please visit http://www.mwp.org
New Joint Research Project on Fragmentation on Global Forest Governance

By Lukas Giessen, Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Working Party 9.05.02 on Forest Governance

Within the thematic area of IUFRO Unit 9.05.02 on Forest Governance, which is coordinated by Prof. Bas Arts together with Prof. Karl Hogl, Dr. Andreas Ottitsch and Dr. Lukas Giessen, a joint research project on “fragmentation of the international forest regime-complex” has been approved by the German Research Foundation (DFG). This interdisciplinary project will be operational from 2012 to 2015. The joint research project is coordinated by Prof. Max Krott and Dr. Lukas Giessen (both Forest Policy, University Göttingen/Germany). It will:

i) Describe the fragmentation of existing international forest-related policies (i.e. a regime-complex);
ii) Explain this fragmentation by political, legal, technical and ecological factors;
iii) Analyze the steering consequences of fragmentation with regard to specific policy goals; and
iv) Develop options to remedy fragmentation of international forest policies.

The members of the joint research project are looking forward to cooperating with other IUFRO units.

For further information please contact the Coordinator Lukas Giessen unter lgiesse(at)uni-goettingen.de or visit the website of the Working Group "International Forest Regime: Politics and Policies" at the Chair of Forest and Nature Conservation Policy in Göttingen, Germany: http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/350489.html

Obituary Edwin Donaubauer

We are sad to inform you that Professor Dr. Edwin Donaubauer, Coordinator of IUFRO Division 2 in the 1980s, passed away on 18 March 2012 in Vienna. For 40 years he had been one of the leading researchers at the Austrian Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape where he was Head of Department and Deputy Director when he retired in 1995. We express our sincere sympathy with his family and friends.

Professor Donaubauer had been most actively involved in IUFRO since the late 1960s when he became Chairman of a Working Group on Fume Damage after the IUFRO World Congress in Munich. Later on he coordinated Subject Groups in International Regulation on Plant Materials and Phytosanitary Regulations and Quarantines and eventually became Deputy Coordinator of Division 2 Forest Plants and Forest Protection in 1974. From 1982 to 1986 he was Coordinator of IUFRO Division 2. In the world of forest protection research, Professor Donaubauer will not only be remembered for his excellent achievements but also for his great enthusiasm with which he kindled other researchers’ interest in the field.

IUFRO Executive Director Alexander Buck

Proceedings

44th International Symposium on Forestry Mechanization. October 9-13, Graz, Austria. FORMEC

Forest Management and Silviculture in the North – Balancing Future Needs
6-8 September 2011, Stjørdal, Norway

Publications

UNEC/FAO launches North American Forest Sector Outlook Study
The UNECE/FAO North American Forest Sector Outlook Study (NAFSOS) projects possible futures for the US and Canada in 2030. This study is a companion to the European Forest Sector Outlook Study II (EFSOS II) launched in September 2011. The study concludes that over the next decades North American forests are expected to meet increasing and sometimes conflicting environmental, social and economic demands: issues that warrant policymakers’ attention. The publication is available online at: http://www.unece.org/forests/outlook/outputs/mop1.html

Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Briefs
Eight Asia-Pacific forest policy briefs have been produced by the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study and are now available at the following address: http://www.tao.org/asiapacific/rap/nre/links/forestry-outlook/en/#policybriefs

Obituary Herbert Aulitzky

Professor emeritus Herbert Aulitzky (P.E.; PhD) passed away peacefully on 8 April 2012, at the age of ninety. Aulitzky was the first full professor (1972 to 1989) on the chair for Avalanche and Torrent Control at the University of Natural Resources and Life Science in Vienna/Austria. In 1966 he had founded the International Research Society INTERPRAEVENT together with Prof. Aichinger and Prof. Grubinger. Aulitzky’s scientific work comprises a series of publications, books and textbooks on torrent control, avalanche control, erosion control, landslide and rockfall control, hazard mapping and land-use planning. The international scientific community, IUFRO and INTERPRAEVENT, have lost an outstanding scientist and an exemplary personality.

Gernot Fiebiger, IUFRO Coordinator 8.03.04, Deputy Coordinator 8.03.00

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Positions

Postdoctoral Scholar with Experience in Entomology and Ecology
Oregon State University, College of Forestry, Department of Forest Engineering, Resources, and Management and the Pacific Northwest Research Station
La Grande, Oregon, United States
Desired start date: 1 June 2012
http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/#c14607

Professorship (W2) in “Wood Technology and Wood Composites”
Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology, University of Göttingen
Göttingen, Germany
Deadline: 21 June 2012
http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/#c14607

Job Openings at the Forest Stewardship Council
International Centre in Bonn, Germany
Policy Manager (male/female) – Forest Management (Conservation).
Key Account Manager (male/female)
Key Account Services Officer (male/female) – parental leave substitution
Trademark Officer (male/female) – parental leave substitution
Smallholder Support Project Manager (male/female)
Training Manager (male/female)
For further information on these positions and how to apply, please visit the careers section of the FSC website at:
http://www.fsc.org/careers.html

Courses

Two courses by International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)
http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/#c14635

1) Community-based Integrated Watershed Management
Philippines; 28 May – 8 June 2012
Deadline: 30 April 2012

2) Capturing Lessons from the Field: The WriteShop Process
Philippines; 18-29 June 2012
Deadline: 18 May 2012

Master of Science in Environmental Governance
The United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) is accepting online applications to its Master of Science in Environmental Governance with Specialization in Biodiversity programme for the 2012 academic year.

For more information on course offerings, fees, duration and application procedure, please visit
http://www.ias.unu.edu/masters.

General deadline for all applications is 30 May 2012. Classes are scheduled to commence in September 2012.

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 in GFIS at: http://www.gfis.net

7-8 May 2012
Directors’ Forum: Governance of Forest Research and Education – Innovations in Participatory Management
Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina
IUFRO 9.02.00
Contact: Konstantin von Teuffel, konstantin.teuffel(at)forst.bwl.de
http://www.sarajevo-df-2012.net/

9-11 May 2012
All-Division 9 Forest Policy and Economics Conference
Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina
IUFRO 9.00.00
Contact: Daniela Kleinschmit, daniela.kleinschmit(at)sprod.slu.se
http://www.foper.org/iufro_1.html

9-11 May 2012
International Seminar “Assessing Forest Governance in a Context of Change”
Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina
IUFRO 9.05.00
Contact: Bruno Maric, bruno.m.maric@gmail.com
Gérard Buttoud, gerard.buttoud(at)hotmail.fr

10-13 May 2012
1st International Scientific Conference 2012
Implementation of DSS Tools into the Forestry Practice
Sliac, Slovakia
IUFRO 4.03.03
Contact: Harald Vacik, harald.vacik(at)boku.ac.at
http://dssfm2012.tuzvo.sk/

21-23 May 2012
RegioResources 21
Dresden, Germany
IUFRO 8.01.02
Contact: Christine Fürst, fuerst(at)forst.tu-dresden.de
http://regioresources21.eli-web.com/

21-25 May 2012
International Conference about Seed Orchards and Breeding Theory
Egirdir, Turkey
IUFRO 2.02.13, 2.04.02, 2.09.01
Contact: Nebi Bilir, nebilir(at)orman.sdu.edu.tr; nebilir(at)hotmail.com
http://sablon.sdu.edu.tr/myo/atabey/seedconference/index.html

22-24 May 2012
Forests for People – International Experiences and the Vital Role for the Future
Alpbach/Tyrol, Austria
IUFRO Task Force Forests for People, IUFRO 6.00.00
Contact: Ulrike Proebstl, ffp2012(at)boku.ac.at
http://ffp2012.boku.ac.at/
6-9 Jun 2012
Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management: Contributions of Managerial Economics and Accounting
Knoxville, Tennessee, United States
IUFRO 4.05.00
Contact: Donald Hodges, dhodges2@utk.edu
http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/iufro4.05.00/

17-20 Jun 2012
Boreal Mixedwoods 2012 – Ecology and Management for Multiple Values
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
IUFRO 1.01.04
Contact: Phil Comeau, Phil.Comeau@ales.ualberta.ca

25-30 Jun 2012
First IUFRO-FORNESSA Regional Congress: Forests and Trees Serving the People of Africa and the World
Nairobi, Kenya
IUFRO, FORNESSA, https://www.fornis.net/
Contact: Joe Cobbinah, joe.cobbinah(at)ymail.com; jcobbinah(at)csr-forig.org.gh
https://www.fornis.net/congress/en/homepage

8-13 Jul 2012
2012 IUFRO All-Division 5 Forest Products Conference
Lisbon, Portugal
IUFRO 5.00.00
Contact: Pekka Saranpää, Pekka.Saranpaa(at)metla.fi
http://www.iufro2012.org/

28-31 Aug 2012
Second International Conference on Biodiversity in Forest Ecosystems and Landscapes
Cork, Ireland
IUFRO 8.02.00, 8.02.01, 8.02.06
Contact: Anne Oxbrough, Anne.Oxbrough@ales.ualberta.ca

4-7 Feb 2013
Breeding for Value in a Changing World
Jacksonville, Florida, United States
IUFRO 2.02.20
Contact: William Dvorak, dvorak(at)ncsu.edu
http://www.ncsu-feop.org/IUFRO/index.html

16-21 May 2013
Estoril, Portugal and other locations
IUFRO 8.00.00, 4.00.00
Contact: Jean-Michel Carnus, Jean-Michel.Carnus(at)pierroton.inra.fr
http://www.eoatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/2013_icpf

4-8 Aug 2013
6th International Symposium on the Biology and Ecology of Gall-forming Arthropods and Related Endophytes
O’Reillys Rainforest Retreat, Queensland, Australia
IUFRO 7.03.02
Contact: Robin Adair, Robin.Adair@dpi.vic.gov.au
http://6isbegia.org/

Other Meetings

16-17 Jun 2012
Fair Ideas
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
IIED event between the final Rio+20 preparatory negotiations and the summit at Pontificia Universidade Catolica
Contact: Duncan Macqueen, duncan.macqueen(at)iiied.org

19-30 Jun 2012
2012 INBAR Bamboo Study Tour
Zhejiang, Sichuan and Guangdong, China
Contact: Fu Jinhe, jfu(at)inbar.int; Ms Li Xin, Xli(at)inbar.int
http://www.inbar.int/show.asp?BoardID=171&NewsID=798

26-27 Sep 2012
Lignofuels Summit
Stockholm, Sweden
http://www.wpqlgroup.com/aci/conferences/eu-eef3.asp

26-28 Sep 2012
International Conference on “Future of Panel Industry – Challenges & Key Issues”
Bangalore, India
Organized by IPITI to commemorate the Golden Jubilee Year of the Institute
Contact: conference(at)ipirti.gov.in
http://www.ipirti.gov.in/conference

4-7 Oct 2012
10th CONAFOR Forestry Expo
Puebla, Mexico
Guest country will be Canada.
Contact: Fabiola Araceli Padilla Garza, fpadilla(at)conafor.gob.mx

22-28 Oct 2012
International Forestry Graduate Student Conference (FORGRAD2012)
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
Contact: forgrad2012(at)forr.upm.edu.my
http://www.forr.upm.edu.my

25-26 Oct 2012
International Workshop on Corruption, Natural Resources and the Environment
Jakarta, Indonesia
Organized by: Asia Pacific Network for Environmental Governance, Australian National University, Center for International Forestry Research
Contact: Luca Tacconi, luca.tacconi(at)anu.edu.au

14-18 Nov 2012
Advances in Plant Sciences
Chiang Mai, Thailand
V S Research Foundation, with Century Foundation
http://www.plants2012.com

12-13 Dec 2012
Int’l Conference on Forest Mountain & People 2012
Colombo, Sri Lanka
International Center for Research & Development (ICRD)
http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/#c12666