

THE ONLINE INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE GLOBAL FOREST SCIENCE NETWORK

forestXchange – New Ways in Knowledge Management

By Roderich von Detten and Andreas Reinbolz, Forest Research Institute of Baden-Württemberg (FVA), Germany

Beyond classical approaches of knowledge transfer, new ways of communication between scientists and practitioners are emerging. Community building, new technologies, web-based knowledge exchange, peer-to-peer communication, new possibilities of integrating experts into knowledge management (KM), and a new perception of the notion of "knowledge" and "expertise" open up the evolving field of knowledge management in forestry.

From 25–27 October 2006, experts in knowledge management from all parts of the world met at the international *forestXchange* conference in Freiburg, Germany, to discuss these issues at an interdisciplinary level covering **theoretical, applied, sociological and technological aspects** of knowledge management.

forestXchange was seen as a platform for discussing new approaches to **the valuation of and the exposure to knowledge** in the field of forestry. Implications for the practical management of knowledge assets were presented, and established ways of knowledge management were critically examined.

Participants gave examples of knowledge management **systems and solutions** such as web-based communication platforms, and discussed new technologies and instruments like Internet Wikis and their application to the field of forestry. The implications of modern KM theories and concepts for the knowledge management in organizations ("Learning organization") and the limitations of the traditional knowledge transfer paradigm were also addressed.

The more theoretical approach was complemented by the relation of **practical experience** in the wide field of KM including knowledge transfer initiatives for forest land owners, KM and decision-making support systems in forest and wood-based industries or KM in forest research organizations.

As a main result of the conference, an impressive variety of existing KM initiatives and approaches became visible. However, it also became obvious that in many organiza-



*Participants during the excursion to the Syngenta Biological Research Centre
Photo by Dennis Hazel, USA*

tions and institutions in forestry a true promotion of KM initiatives from the management was sometimes missing, especially when it comes to resource allocation. KM in forestry is in some respects still a matter of single initiatives by individual persons. **There is a need for an intensified exchange of experience and knowledge within a Knowledge Management community of practice**, also on the national level where networks of KM experts often do not exist.

The *forestXchange* conference can be regarded as an important step into this direction. The presentations, which are available for download via the **conference website www.forestxchange.org**, serve as good starting points for establishing contacts with KM experts and are an invitation to further explore this evolving and promising field of KM in forestry. *(Text adapted by the editor)*

**2nd Latin American IUFRO Congress,
La Serena, Chile, 23-27 Oct 2006
and Pre-Congress Workshop**

* * * **Read on Page 3** * * *

The conference was organized by the developers of the joint international information platform www.waldwissen.net and founders of an EU co-financed international network for knowledge transfer in the Alpine Space (KnowForAlp), and supported by IUFRO **Division 6**, the IUFRO **Task Force "Communicating Forest Science"** and IUFRO Units **6.06.01** (Technology Transfer), **6.06.02** (Extension) and **6.15.00** (Improving Education and Further Education). Approx. 120 experts from 22 countries, mainly from the field of forestry (research institutions, universities, state forest services, consultants etc.) participated and 45 presentations were given. *Contact: info@forestxchange.org*

What does it mean ?

Definitions of (emerging) terms and information on needs for clarification of forest terminology in issues related to the Editorial of IUFRO News. Visit the [SilvaTerm](#) multilingual terminology database for more information.

Knowledge management (KM)

FR **gestion du savoir** - ES **gestión del conocimiento** - DE **Wissensmanagement**

The collecting of knowledge and its efficient use for the benefit of an organisation.

Contact: Renate Prüller, Coordinator [SilvaVoc](#) or Michèle Kaennel Dobbertin, Coordinator [IUFRO 6.03.02](#)

Note - In practice, knowledge management often encompasses identifying and mapping intellectual assets within the organization, generating new knowledge through analysis and synthesis for competitive advantage within the organization, making vast amounts of corporate information accessible, sharing of best practices, and technology that enables all the above.

Telling the Story of Global Forestry Right

Alejandra Real (University of Göttingen, Germany)

From 22-24 October 2006, prior to the forestXchange conference (see page 1), forest communication experts from 14 countries met in Freiburg, Germany to discuss the most suitable instruments for communicating forest science and give recommendations for specific communication activities of IUFRO. Positive examples from around the world show that forest science has a potential to become part of the communication between stakeholders, the media and the public. However, success means that communication must become a daily task for forest science institutions and IUFRO. [Full report](#)

Forest scientists are a **valuable source of information** for stakeholders and the media. However, communication between scientists and the other two is often insufficient.

In policy matters, for example, stakeholders have a high **demand for expertise**, but scientists offer mainly natural science results. They need to learn how to find and formulate scientific answers to the questions really asked. Although scientists may learn to communicate better, there is also an increasing **demand for "knowledge brokers"**.

In media relations, forest scientists must learn how to link their findings better to the problems of society in order to attract attention. The main challenge for IUFRO here is to integrate forest science into the discourse about global problems such as biodiversity, forest fires and global warming. It is important to **tell the story of global forestry in a simple yet thrilling and relevant way**, so the media and stakeholders will listen. Training forest scientists by journalists can be a very effective and efficient strategy to make forest science more visible in the media.

Of course, forest scientists are willing to communicate with stakeholders and citizens, but this will often need a substantial amount of **time and financial sources**. However, investments will contribute considerably to making forest science better known.



Members of TF Communicating Forest Science joining a model of a forester people can trust. Photographer: Alejandra Real

Keep communicating

Reports of the meeting will be published: Daniela Kleinschmit, Max Krott, Alejandra Real (Eds.) "Communicating Forest Science a Daily Task" Occasional Paper will be available on the Task Force homepage.

The **next meeting** of the Task Force will be in Canada in 2008. The **details of the meetings** will be available through the Task Force's homepage: <http://www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/communication/>

Technical meeting data

"Communicating Forest Science. Communicating – why and how?"
Venue of meeting: Forest Research Institute Baden-Wuerttemberg, Freiburg, Germany
25 participants representing 14 countries.
In the course of the meeting, the experts conducted an **evaluation of the draft of the new IUFRO communication strategy**.

Contact: Alejandra Real, Email: [areal\(at\)gwdg\(dot\)de](mailto:areal(at)gwdg(dot)de) (report abridged and adapted by the editor)

2nd Latin American IUFRO Congress La Serena, Chile, 23–27 October 2006



Forest Research in the Region of Latin America and the Caribbean: Supporting Forests and People through Networking

Some 200 forest researchers from 15 countries in the Latin American and Caribbean Region and from 13 countries outside the Region, have come to La Serena, Chile, to attend the [Second Latin American IUFRO Congress](#) generously hosted by the Institute of Forestry of Chile, INFOR, as principal organizer.



IUFRO representatives and Headquarters staff in La Serena:

From right to left (standing): Risto Seppälä (Immediate Past President), Don K Lee (IUFRO President); Peter Mayer (IUFRO Executive Director); Gerda Wolfrum and Judith Stöger (IUFRO Headquarters); Eero Mikkola (GFIS Coordinator); From right to left (front): John Parrotta (IUFRO Task Force Coordinator and Deputy Division 1 Coordinator), Michael Kleine (IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator)
(Photo by Don K Lee)

The researchers have drawn up a [joint Declaration](#) where they recognize the benefits of increased networking, capacity building and a better information flow in research. IUFRO with its network of scientists, its Special Programme for Developing Countries (SPDC) and the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) initiative come in useful for enhancing the effectiveness of research.

In order to both provide cutting edge research and ensure a sustainable future for research, a stable financial framework and the integration of young scientists are indispensable. Initiatives that help establish an appropriate environment for research activities and networking in the Region and measures that are targeted at involving young scientists are therefore most welcome.

Against this background, the IUFRO Regional Congress was regarded as an important platform for sharing relevant information and establishing new contacts.

Also visit [IUFRO Unit 6.03.04](#) for information on this Region.

IUFRO-SPDC/CATIE Pre-Congress Training Workshop “Working Effectively at the Interface of Forest Science and Forest Policy”

IUFRO’s Special Programme for Developing Countries ([IUFRO-SPDC](#)) and The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) jointly organized a training [workshop in La Serena](#), Chile from 20 to 22 October, 2006. This training event focused on the interaction between the forest science community and policy-makers and took place as a pre-congress event in conjunction with the Second Latin America IUFRO Congress (II IUFROLAT 2006).

The workshop highlighted methods on how to plan, conduct, and organize research activities so that results can more quickly and easily be transformed into usable information for problem-solving and policy-making. The presentations provided latest thinking on concepts and tools for the improvement of the interface of forest science and forest policy. The course specifically focused on the following issues:

- Selecting research questions that are relevant to policy issues
- Conducting research in a communicative and collaborative manner
- Understanding, serving and engaging in policy processes
- Creating organizational capacity and culture that enables and encourages work at the science-policy interface

The course content is based on the work of the IUFRO Task Force on Science-Policy Interface and its published guidelines on “Working Effectively at the Interface of Forest Science and Forest Policy” ([IUFRO Occasional Paper No. 17](#)). In addition, six resource persons and trainers from CATIE, the USDA Forest Service, IUFRO-WFSE (Special Project “World Forests Society and Environment”) and ODI-VERIFOR (“Options for Forest Verification”) presented a wide spectrum of case studies from around the world that demonstrate successes and challenges of working at the science-policy interface.

As follow-up to the workshop, IUFRO-SPDC, in close cooperation with the IUFRO Task Force, will develop training material on science-policy interactions specifically directed towards the needs of forest scientists in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In total, 22 participants from 10 countries in Central and South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru) attended the three-day workshop and actively participated in the various presentations and discussions. Funding for the course was generously provided by the USDA Forest Service and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

*Michael Kleine
Bastiaan Louman*

OAK 2006 - The Quest for Sustainability

About 100 international forest scientists and managers gathered at the OAK 2006 IUFRO Conference from 21-27 September 2006 at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, USA. The conference entitled "**Advances in the principles and practices of oak silviculture and genetics**" was a joint meeting of IUFRO Units 1.01.06 Ecology and Silviculture of Oaks and 2.08.05 Genetics of *Quercus*. It was hosted by the College of Natural Resources of the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, and additionally sponsored by the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Society of American Foresters, and Stora Enso.

Numerous aspects of oak management, ecology and health were addressed comprehensively in the oral and poster presentations. Keynote speaker Stephen Shifley from the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station presented what he regarded as the basic concepts for sustainable management of oak and other forests.

He said that in the U.S. wood production was increasingly declining while nature protection aspects were increasing. As a consequence, future demand in wood consumption would have to be met by imported wood. This means, however, that the impacts – not always positive - of harvesting and consumption will be transferred elsewhere. While the forest resources per capita are far greater in the U.S. than the global average, Shifley regarded the current course of



(Photo: Wisconsin oak in fall, by K Makkonen-Spiecker)

action in the U.S. in respect to timber production and consumption as not sustainable at the global level. As a contribution to the sustainability of global forest resources, he therefore suggested that the national volume of timber harvest be brought into balance with the rate of domestic wood consumption, and appealed to consumers, conservationists, and environmentalists to support all actions to support this goal.

Read the [full report](#) by Kaisu Makkonen-Spiecker.

Forests under Anthropogenic Pressure - Effects of Air Pollution, Climate Change and Urban Development

[Full report and pictures](#)

The 22nd meeting for Specialists in Air Pollution Effects on Forest Ecosystems was held from September 10-16, 2006, in Riverside CA, USA, hosted by USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, on behalf of the IUFRO Research Group 7.01.00 "Impacts of Air Pollution and Climate Change on Forest Ecosystems". A satellite Symposium on Forest Fires and Air Pollution Issues was also held.

All oral presentations and posters, after passing peer review, will be published in the on-line journal *The Scientific World*. Selected best papers will be published as a special volume in the journal *Environmental Pollution*.



Meeting participants at the General Sherman Tree

(Source: Newsletter No. 26 of IUFRO Research Group 7.01)

www.iufro.org for you

Do you know the IUFRO NOTICEBOARD?

Visit <http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/> and find information about awards, grants, open positions, meetings, publications etc.

Why not **bookmark** the IUFRO Noticeboard on our homepage with the "**explore fast**" function?

Wilton Park Forest Policy Conference

A Wilton Park Conference was organized by the British Forestry Commission's Research Agency and addressed the topic of "**Forestry - a sectoral response to climate change**". Some 45 experts in forest policy, science and climate change, including IUFRO Officeholders, participated. [Full report](#) by IISD (Canada) in Earth Negotiations Bulletin
Information provided by David Karnosky

Volume 35, double issue 10&11/2006, page 4

Announcements

Courses and Scholarships

Three Erasmus Mundus MSc programs:

SUFONAMA

Sustainable Forest and Nature Management:

The overall objective is to qualify graduates to deal with the challenges of modern natural resources management in Europe and other temperate regions, that is, sustainable management of forests and nature areas in an integrated landscape context.

See: www.sufonama.net

SUTROFOR

Sustainable Tropical Forestry:

The overall objective is to qualify graduates to deal with the challenges in contemporary tropical forestry, that is, sustainable tropical forestry management is becoming increasingly complex due to improved knowledge and a growing demand for products and services.

See: www.sutrofor.net

■ There are fifty scholarships available:

Each of EUR 42,000 (EUR 21,000 annually for two years). Application deadline for non-EU students is 1 February 2007, for EU students 17 August 2007.

MSc European Forestry

Two-year double degree program co-organized by the following six European universities: BOKU (Austria), Freiburg (Germany), Joensuu (Finland), Lleida (Spain), SLU (Sweden), Wageningen (The Netherlands)

[MSc European Forestry Erasmus Mundus](#)

deadline for applications 31 December 2006.

Feel free to distribute this information about the new MSc programs as widely as possible!

Schweighofer Prize 2007

Call for Submissions

The dynamic development and competitiveness of the European forest-based industry depend on the continuous implementation of innovations within the whole forest-wood chain. Therefore, the conditions for submitting proposals for the Schweighofer Prize have been adjusted to the most challenging topics in order to meet the strategic objectives of the sector.

Entry forms and further details can be downloaded from: www.schweighofer-prize.org

Submission deadline: 31 January, 2007

<http://www.iufro.org/discover/awards/>

IUFRO Meetings

NOTE: The following list of meetings is not complete!

For a full list of IUFRO events, please visit our [online calendar](#). Find more details on the [homepages](#) of IUFRO Units involved.

20-21 February 2007

International Workshop on National Forest Programmes – A Tool for Strengthening Science – Policy Interface in Practise

Zagreb, Croatia

Organized by EFI, FAO and [IUFRO Unit 6.12.00](#)

Contact: Ilpo Tikkanen, [ilpo\(dot\)tikkanen\(at\)efi\(dot\)int](mailto:ilpo(dot)tikkanen(at)efi(dot)int)

See: <http://www.efi.int/events/extra/2006/foperdecember2006>

16-19 April 2007

Afforestation and Sustainable Forest Management as a Means to Combat Desertification

Jerusalem, Israel

Co-sponsored [IUFRO Unit 1.02.07](#)

Contact: Nir Atzmon, [atzmonn\(at\)agri\(dot\)gov\(dot\)il](mailto:atzmonn(at)agri(dot)gov(dot)il)

See <http://www.fcd.org.il/>

17-20 April 2007

4th Cuban Forestry Congress

Co-sponsored by [IUFRO Unit 1.02.02](#)

Contact: Elías Linares Landa, [elias\(at\)enet\(dot\)cu](mailto:elias(at)enet(dot)cu)

Telefax: 537-8817875

See <http://www.cpalco.com>

16-19 May 2007

10th European Forum for Urban Forestry

„New Forests after Industries“

Gelsenkirchen, Germany

Co-organized by [IUFRO 6.14.00](#) and EUFORIC

Contact: [efuf2007\(at\)wald-und-holz.nrw\(dot\)de](mailto:efuf2007(at)wald-und-holz.nrw(dot)de)

See <http://www.industriewald-ruhrgebiet.nrw.de/efuf2007/index.htm>

22-27 May 2007

Symposium of the IUFRO Endangered Species and Nature Conservation Task Force

(as part of the Eco Summit 2007)

Beijing, China

Contact: Robert Szaro, [rszaro\(at\)fs\(dot\)fed\(dot\)us](mailto:rszaro(at)fs(dot)fed(dot)us)

12-14 June 2007

Decisions for Sustainability Conference:

Forest Estate Models for the Future

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Co-sponsored by [IUFRO Unit 4.04.00](#)

Contact: Jeff Stone, Ministry of Forests and Range

[jeff\(dot\)stone\(at\)gov\(dot\)bc\(dot\)ca](mailto:jeff(dot)stone(at)gov(dot)bc(dot)ca)

See <http://www.femc2007.net/>

7-10 August 2007

Forest Growth and Timber Quality: Crown Models and Simulation Methods for Sustainable Forest Management

Portland, Oregon, United States

Co-sponsored by IUFRO Div 3, 4, 5, RG 5.12, WP 4.01.05

Contact: Dennis Dykstra, [ddykstra\(at\)fs\(dot\)fed\(dot\)us](mailto:ddykstra(at)fs(dot)fed(dot)us)

See [IUFRO Division 3](#)

12-18 August 2007

8th Int'l Christmas Tree Research & Extension Conference

Bogense, Funen, Denmark

Co-organized by [IUFRO Unit 2.02.09](#)

Contact: Ulrik Bräuner Nielsen, [ubn\(at\)kvl\(dot\)dk](mailto:ubn(at)kvl(dot)dk) ;

See <http://en.sl.kvl.dk/KurserOgEfteruddannelse/CTRE2007.aspx>

14-20 August 2006

IUFRO Division 6 Symposium:

Integrative Science for Integrative Management

Saariselkä, Finland

Contact: James E. Johnson, Email: [jej\(at\)vt\(dot\)edu](mailto:jej(at)vt(dot)edu)

See [IUFRO Div 6](#)

3-4 September 2007

The Beauty of Hardwood

Hardwood Research and Utilization in Europe

Sopron, Hungary

Organized by the Faculty of Wood Sciences at the University of West Hungary

Sponsored by [IUFRO Division 5](#)

The conference is tied in with Ligno Novum – Wood Tech forestry and wood technology fair, 5-8 September 2007

Contact: Laszlo Bejo, [lbejo\(at\)fmk\(dot\)nyme\(dot\)hu](mailto:lbejo(at)fmk(dot)nyme(dot)hu)

See <http://hdwconf.fmk.nyme.hu/>

6-8 September 2007

IUFRO European Congress 2007

Warsaw, Poland

In conjunction with the EFI Annual Conference 2007

Organized by the Faculty of Forestry of Warsaw Agricultural University, IUFRO, and EFI

Contact: Chair, Scientific Committee of the IUFRO European Congress 2007

[Piotr\(dot\)Paschalis\(at\)wl\(dot\)sggw\(dot\)pl](mailto:Piotr(dot)Paschalis(at)wl(dot)sggw(dot)pl)

See <http://conference2007.wl.sggw.pl>

EFI Annual Conference: <http://www.efi.int>

16-19 September 2007

Fourth International Symposium on Dynamics of Physiological Processes in Roots of Woody Plants

Bangor, UK

Co-sponsored by [IUFRO Unit 2.01.13](#)

Contact: Douglas L. Godbold, [safs\(at\)bangor\(dot\)ac\(dot\)uk](mailto:safs(at)bangor(dot)ac(dot)uk) ;

[d\(dot\)l\(dot\)godbold\(at\)bangor\(dot\)ac\(dot\)uk](mailto:d(dot)l(dot)godbold(at)bangor(dot)ac(dot)uk)

See <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/~afsa0e/cost38/futuremeetings.htm>

29 Oct – 2 Nov 2007

All Division 5 Conference

Taipei, China-Taipei

Contact: Chris Risbrudt,

Email: [crisbrudt\(at\)fs\(dot\)fed\(dot\)us](mailto:crisbrudt(at)fs(dot)fed(dot)us)

See <http://www.alldiv5iufro2007.org.tw/index.htm>

17-21 February 2008

Old Forests, New Management; Conservation and Use of Old-growth Forests in the 21st Century

Hobart, Australia

Co-sponsored by [IUFRO Division 4](#)

Contact: Mark Neyland

Email: [mark\(dot\)neyland\(at\)forestrytas\(dot\)com\(dot\)au](mailto:mark(dot)neyland(at)forestrytas(dot)com(dot)au)

Other Meetings

Find meetings not organized or co-sponsored by IUFRO at the [IUFRO online noticeboard](#) under 'other meetings'.

11-12 January 2007

Mobilizing Wood Resources - Can Europe's Forests Satisfy the Increasing Demand for Raw Material and Energy under Sustainable Forest Management?

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

See: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/workshops/2007/wmw/mobilisingwood.htm>

2-3 March 2007

Financing of Forest Conservation

Payments for Environmental Services in the Tropics

ISTF, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Contact: [istf\(at\)yale.edu](mailto:istf(at)yale.edu)

See <http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/>

1-5 April 2007

9th Air Pollution Workshop

Guadalajara, Mexico

Contact: Andrzej Bytnerowicz, [abytnerowicz\(at\)fs\(dot\)fed\(dot\)us](mailto:abytnerowicz(at)fs(dot)fed(dot)us); See <http://apworkshop.org/>

25-27 April 2007

EcoForestar 2007:

1st Meeting on Afforestation in Patagonia

Esquel, Argentina

Organized by CIEFAP

Contact: [ecoforestar\(at\)ciefap\(dot\)org\(dot\)ar](mailto:ecoforestar(at)ciefap(dot)org(dot)ar)

See www.ciefap.org.ar/novedades/ecoforestar

18-20 June 2007

6th North American Forest Ecology Workshop

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Contact: H Kimmins, [Hamish\(dot\)Kimmins\(at\)ubc\(dot\)ca](mailto:Hamish(dot)Kimmins(at)ubc(dot)ca)

See <http://www.nafew2007.org>

20-22 June 2007

International ICWSE Conferenc

Brasov, Romania

Transylvania Univ. of Brasov, Faculty of Wood Industry; This conference follows the Cost Action E37 Workshop

See <http://www.unitbv.ro/il/icwse2007/>

8-12 July 2007

Landscape Ecology and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources: A New Paradigm for Environmental Management in Africa in the 21st Century

(Part of the 7th World Congress of IALE)

Wageningen, The Netherlands

See <http://www.iale2007.com/>

Contact: H Bulley, [hbulley\(at\)mail\(dot\)unomaha\(dot\)edu](mailto:hbulley(at)mail(dot)unomaha(dot)edu)

30 Sep-3 Oct 2007

A Global Vision of Forestry in the 21st Century

Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, Canada.

Contact: Shashi Kant [shashi\(dot\)kant\(at\)utoronto\(dot\)ca](mailto:shashi(dot)kant(at)utoronto(dot)ca)

See http://www.forestry.utoronto.ca/centennial/int_congress.htm