

The Role of Forests and Forestry in Integrated Environmental Assessments in Europe

By Gert-Jan Nabuurs (Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO 4.02.07) and Frits Mohren

Over the past decades, emphasis in European forest management has shifted from wood production to a broad spectrum of goods and services ranging from fiber production to landscaping and from biodiversity conservation to sustainable use of non-timber forest products. Consequently forestry and forest management have to be considered in a wider context and other sectors and issues are increasingly carrying out assessments at the European scale that encompass forests, but that hardly involve the forestry sector. Examples are European scale projects like Bioscore, Sensor, and Carbo-Europe, and examples in the policy process are the drawing up of a Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN).

Concurrent with this development, and in line with other developments in society, stakeholders have become more vocal, demanding and influential. Forests and forestry are not the exclusive domain of foresters anymore (if they ever were). Yet, forestry and forest management remain responsible for stand management and, together with a wide range of stakeholders, for deciding on long-term objectives and targets.

Following the European Forest Institute's annual conference, over a 100 people met in the Abbey of Rolduc in Kerkrade, The Netherlands, on 15th September to discuss this topic. Keynotes included were those from Peter Duinker from Canada on 'Forests and Environmental Assessment: How Do They Link?', Tor-Björn Larsson of the European Environment Agency (EEA) on 'Forest Biodiversity Indicators and Forests as Part of Nature Conservation Areas', Mark van Oorschot from the Netherlands on 'The Role of Forestry in the Global Biodiversity Outlook', Marta Pérez-Soba from Spain on 'Assessing the Impacts of EU Policies on Sustainable Forest Management: the Sensor Approach', and Rik Leemans from the Netherlands with 'ATEAM: Vulnerability and Resilience of Forests in Europe' (*ATEAM stands for Advanced Terrestrial Ecosystem Analysis and Modelling*).

The seminar concluded that as part of these developments, a strict sectoral approach to forest management may be unable to cope with the variety of demands on forests, and a more integrated view on land use is required.



Seminar Participants during the excursion
Photo by Gert-Jan Nabuurs

As part of this, forests are only one form of land use, although still fulfilling their various roles. Contrary to the more integrated approaches, forest ownership is fragmented, owners may not depend on the forest for their income, and stumpage prices remain low. As a consequence of these developments, industry is becoming more interested in the forest resource of the European part of Russia.

Thus, although there is increasing interest in the role of forests, e.g. within Natura2000 networks, for biodiversity conservation, in aesthetic values, and in climate change mitigation functions, many forest owners are not prepared for this, and the economics of forest management often do not reflect the increased interest. The result is that forestry is sometimes seen in integrated land use views as a slowly adapting conservative player. Also, forestry research is lagging behind in these developments. Forest scenario modelling tools and forest sector models should take up these new challenges.

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.

This time, the focus of the terminology column is on the **paradigm change in forest management** which goes along with the transition from the former sustained yield timber management (SYTM) to the present sustainable forest management (SFM); a.o. it has led also to a shift from a disciplinary to an interdisciplinary approach, comprising new concepts and view points (e.g. away from stand to landscape level) .

Marcus Wallenberg Prize 2006

On 28 September 2006 the King of Sweden presented the **Marcus Wallenberg Prize for forestry and forest products research to Dr Antoine Kremer**. Antoine Kremer, Leader of IUFRO Subject Group S2.02.22 *Genetics of Quercus* from 1987 to 1991, had been nominated by IUFRO.



From left to right:
Niels Koch, Yves Birot,
Hosny El-Lakany,
Antoine Kremer,
Risto Seppala,
Eric Teissier du Cros
and Jeff Burley

(Photo provided by
the MW Foundation)

The citation for the award was:- "For his path-breaking discovery of the evolution, organization and distribution of the genetic diversity of Pan-European oaks that will act as an outstanding model for the study of all other species. Dr Antoine Kremer has worked for 28 years with the French national research organization INRA (L'Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique) and has been a leader in both national and international research groups. His breakthrough is in the combination of information from a number of different sciences at their current state-of-the-art level (from molecular genetics to evolutionary history of forests) to develop new knowledge about oaks at a continental scale. This knowledge will provide a major platform to facilitate decisions about the conservation and management of forests. It also allows prediction of likely future changes under the impact of climate and other environmental changes. Dr Kremer's individual researches and synthesis may be applicable to other species throughout the world including industrial indigenous conifers such as those in northern Russia. The techniques will also have relevance to the introduction, management, improvement and use of exotic species elsewhere. The award of the Prize recognizes Dr Kremer as an outstanding scientist and his work as a major contribution to human understanding, resource conservation and industrial development."

Read the **speeches** held by [Marcus Wallenberg](#) and [Antoine Kremer](#) on the occasion. Visit: www.mwp.org.

ECOSYSTEM (-BASED) FOREST MANAGEMENT (EM)

Management guided by monitoring of ecological interactions and processes necessary to sustain ecosystem composition, structure, and function over the long run.

LANDSCAPE

Heterogeneous cluster of interacting ecosystems including vegetation, soil, fauna, lithosphere, hydrosphere and surface layer of the atmosphere related to this area. Landscape is a distinct level of ecological organization, a system composed of a mosaic of diverse ecosystems whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

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

Good Laws for Better Forests

Available on the IUFRO Web site:

[Scientific Summary](#) of the IUFRO 6.13.00 8th International Symposium on "Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development" in Istanbul (Turkey), May 10 - 14, 2006 by Peter Herbst, Coordinator of 6.13.00. A report about this meeting was published in [IUFRO News 8, 2006](#).

Forests under Anthropogenic Stress

The 22nd Biannual Meeting of the IUFRO Research Group [7.01.00](#) "Impacts of Air Pollution and Climate Change on Forest Ecosystems", hosted by the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station, was held in Riverside, California on September 10-16, 2006. Over 100 participants from 13 countries attended the meeting.

This year's theme was "**Forest under Anthropogenic Stressors – Effects of Air Pollution, Climate Change and Urban Development**". Effects of these integrated stressors are currently monitored in many areas around the world. The combined stress of air pollution, increasing temperatures, more frequent episodes of drought, and bark beetle attacks are causing widespread forest dieback in western North America, southern Europe and Siberia. Such changes may lead to catastrophic fires resulting in millions of acres of forests burnt, loss of human lives and structures, and large emissions of toxic air pollutants affecting the entire northern hemisphere. Effects of forest fires on global carbon resources, changes in visibility, and toxic emissions affecting human health, as well as related topics were discussed in more than 20 presentations at the satellite symposium "Forest Fire and Air Pollution Issues".

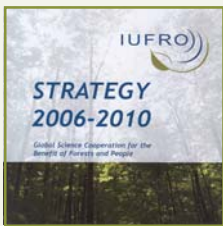
Presentations from the meeting will be published in the online journal, *The Scientific World*, a special issue of the international journal, *Environmental Pollution*, and an Elsevier book in the *Developments in Environmental Sciences* series, "Forest Fires and Air Pollution Issues."

For more information about the meeting please contact Andrzej Bytnerowicz of the USDA FS PSW Research Station at 951-680-1562 or <abytnerowicz@fs.fed.us>. [Full report.](#)

IUFRO Strategy 2006-2010 Global Science Cooperation for the Benefit of Forests and People

In the recently published Strategy paper, IUFRO has identified three major goals and related objectives for the period 2006-2010 which shall support IUFRO and its members:

- 1) To strengthen research for the benefit of forests and people
- 2) To expand strategic partnerships and cooperation
- 3) To strengthen communication and links within the scientific community and with students as well as with policy makers and society at large



The Strategy was widely distributed among IUFRO Members and office-holders. A [PDF document](#) (2.33 MB) of the Strategy can be downloaded from the IUFRO Web site. Hardcopies are available from the IUFRO Secretariat.

Contact: office@iufro.org.

IUFRO Headquarters Staff News

On November 6, 2006, our colleague **Brigitte Burger** will go on **maternity leave** for an estimated period of two years. Her many duties as Web manager and contact person for IUFRO network related issues will be distributed as follows:

Claudia Goestl – Web Management

We welcome Claudia as a new staff member who will work at IUFRO Headquarters for 20 hours a week and dedicate her time to web management and administration. Claudia will be the contact person and web moderator for all IUFRO research units. This implies that we can take away the extra burden from the voluntary web moderators of the IUFRO Divisions. Contact: goestl@iufro.org

Renate Pruesser – IUFRO Network Service

We are happy to inform you that Renate Pruesser, Coordinator of the IUFRO Terminology Project, will now be employed for 20 hours a week. She will become the service person for all IUFRO network related issues (except finances and membership) and also the contact person for the IUFRO Science Committee, Honours and Awards Committee, Publications Committee and International Council. Contact: pruesser@iufro.org

Judith Stoeger and Sylvia Fiege – Membership issues

Judith, responsible for Finance and Administration at IUFRO Headquarters, will also become the contact person for all IUFRO membership issues together with Sylvia Fiege, who is in charge of the Database Management and Administration of Membership Fees.

Contact: stoeger@iufro.org ; sylvia@iufro.org

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.

14-15 November 2006

Asia Forest Workshop 2006

Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan

Co-sponsored by [IUFRO 4.02.02](#)

Contact: Naoto Matsumura, nma@bio.mie-u.ac.jp

<http://ffpsc.agr.kyushu-u.ac.jp/AFW2006/>

3-6 December 2006

First Iberoamerican Wood Protection Congress

Mérida, Venezuela

Co-sponsored by [IUFRO 5.03.00](#)

Contact: Congress Secretariat, osenbla@gmail.com

4-5 December 2006

Int'l Workshop on National Forest Programmes

Zagreb, Croatia

EFI, FAO, IUFRO, MCPFE

Contact: Ilpo Tikkanen, EFI, ilpo@tikkanen.efi.int

Announcement: <http://www.iufro.org/events/calendar/>

13-15 February 2007

Third Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) Conference

Fort Collins, Colorado, United States

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

Contact: Robert N Havis, Email: rhavis@fs.fed.us

http://www.fs.fed.us/fmsc/fvs/fvs_conference.shtml

18-20 April 2007

Forest Research Management in an Era of Globalisation

Washington, D.C., United States

Co-sponsored by [IUFRO 6.06.00](#)

Contact: Konstantin von Teuffel,

konstantin.teuffel@forst.bwl.de

14-19 May 2007

IUFRO Interdivisional Conference on Forest Landscape Restoration

Seoul, Korea

Co-sponsored by IUFRO Divisions 1, 6 and 8

Contact: John Stanturf, jstanturf@fs.fed.us

<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/korea/>

3-8 June 2007

Tree Biotechnology 2007

Ponta Delgada, Portugal

Co-sponsored by IUFRO 2.04.06

Contact: Margarida Oliveira, Email: iufro7@itqb.unl.pt

<http://www.itqb.unl.pt/iufro2007/>

Non-IUFRO Meetings

20-23 November 2006

8th Pacific Rim Bio-Based Composites Symposium

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Organized by FRIM and others

Contact: Rahim Sudin, rahims@frim.gov.my

http://www.frim.gov.my/newsevent_reg2.cfm