

THE ONLINE INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE GLOBAL FOREST SCIENCE NETWORK

Traditional Forest Knowledge in Asia: Sustaining Biocultural Diversity

By John A. Parrotta (Coordinator, IUFRO Task Force on Traditional Forest Knowledge)

In a rapidly changing, increasingly globalized and culturally homogenized world, what is the role of traditional forest knowledge and practices? Can this fast-disappearing wisdom contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable forest management? These were among the questions explored during the conference "Sustainable Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation: Roles of Traditional Forest-related Knowledge", held in Kunming, China from December 17th to 20th 2007.

Importance of Traditional Forest Knowledge for Sustainable Livelihoods

Traditional knowledge and practices have sustained the livelihoods, cultures and the forest and agricultural resources of local and indigenous communities throughout Asia for centuries. This knowledge, most often tightly interwoven with traditional religious beliefs, customs, folklore, land-use practices and community-level decision-making processes, has historically been dynamic, responding to changing environmental, social, economic and political conditions to ensure that forest resources continue to provide tangible (foods, medicines, wood and other non-timber forest products, water and fertile soils) and intangible (spiritual, social and psychological health) benefits for present and future generations.

Challenges to TFK in a rapidly changing world

Despite their importance and contributions to sustainable rural livelihoods, traditional forest-related knowledge and practices are fast disappearing in most Asian countries, (and indeed worldwide) for a number of reasons. The expansion of the increasingly globalized market economy in previously self-sufficient rural areas, the impact of infrastructure development and greater exposure to mass media, and government policies and regulations within and outside of the forest sector restricting access and traditional use of forest resources, have led to a general erosion of traditional culture and of traditional land and forest management knowledge and practices, and declining interest in traditional wisdom, knowledge, and lifestyles among younger generations. The negative implications of this loss of TFK on livelihoods, cultural and biological diversity, and



Conference attendees at the Zixishan Nature Reserve, Yunnan Province, China

the capacity of forested landscapes to provide environmental goods and services remain poorly understood, largely unappreciated, and undervalued by policy-makers and the general public in most countries.

Opportunities and the role of formal forest science

Working with local and indigenous communities, the forest science community can contribute to the revitalization of traditional forest-related knowledge in several important ways, including:

- Documentation of TFK in close partnership with holders and users of this knowledge, using ethically appropriate study methods;
- Research on traditional forest management conservation and practices that help to elucidate and generalize the ecological underpinnings of traditional knowledge;
- Economics, marketing and policy research aimed at improving opportunities for increasing rural incomes from products and services provided by application of TFK;
- Integration of TFK into forestry curricula, and partnership with the holders and users of traditional knowledge for education of the general public and decision-makers on the livelihood and environmental values of TFK.

This conference was jointly organized by the Chinese Academy of Forestry, IUFRO's Task Force on Traditional Forest Knowledge, and the Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) with the cooperation of several other organizations in Asia and financial support from the Korea Forest Research Institute, the State Forestry Administration of PR China, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, United Nations University and APAFRI. The 150 participants from 20 countries included research scientists, students, representatives from NGOs, national and intergovernmental agencies and bodies, and local and indigenous community members. A total of 65 papers and posters were presented. [Task Force homepage.](#)

IUFRO-SPDC Training on Science - Policy Interfacing

By Michael Kleine (IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator) and Bastiaan Louman (IUFRO-SPDC Regional Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean)

Over the past three years, IUFRO-SPDC has regularly organized science-policy training workshops for forest scientists from developing countries. In 2007, for example, three such events titled "Working effectively at the interface of forest science and forest policy" were held in Malaysia (photo), Ecuador and Kenya (photo). <http://www.iufro.org/science/special/spdc/>

The overall objective of the training workshops was to provide concepts and methods to researchers 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. Towards this end, the training workshops specifically aimed at improving the understanding of policy- and decision-making processes and the roles scientists can play in informing such processes.

Best practices for science-policy interactions have been developed and published by the IUFRO Task Force <http://www.iufro.org/publications/series/occasional-papers/en/>) and were explained in the workshops against various backgrounds and contexts. These included (a) international policy processes, (b) national forest programs; and (c) pro-poor policies at the local level. The participants also analyzed specific policies and research projects on the basis of the recommendations in the best practices guide.

The results of the group work, for example, indicate that in many Latin American countries the framework for forest



and environmental policy is changing for the better but there are serious problems in its application. Therefore participants suggest that researchers should be aware of the different needs of policy makers during different phases in the policy process (formulation, application, monitoring and evaluation), considering applicability, timing and reliability of the results. In addition, researchers should aim at increasing political willingness to invest in the forest sector, by showing the value of forests for society as well as their contribution to better decision making.

In Africa a shift in research priorities from bio-physical to environmental and social research with the main focus on poverty reduction, livelihood and climate change issues has taken place in recent years. This has been accompanied by attempts to establish systems of closer interaction between the science community and relevant policy makers and stakeholders. However, effectively

reaching policy makers has remained difficult because of constraints related to governance structures, timing of the information provided, communication skills and resources for professional staff of science institutions such as science communicators and policy specialists.

All in all, the science-policy training workshops have attracted keen interest by the forest science-community in developing countries. More such workshops will be offered, in order to further contribute to IUFRO's strategic goal on strengthening links between science and policy.

International Workshop on Biological Control of Invasive Species of Forests (IWBCISF)

Source: *Biocontrol News and Information* [28(4)]

The IWBCISF was held on 20–25 September 2007 in Beijing P. R. China. It was organized by the USDA Forest Service – Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET), the Chinese Academy of Forestry –Research Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection, the Asian-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN), and the Asian-Pacific Association of Research Institutions. IUFRO 7.03.08 – Forest Protection in Northeast Asia co-sponsored the event.

This international workshop was the first of its kind. The intent of the IWBCISF meeting was to create a forum for presentations to exchange information and to foster discussions of issues affecting the use of natural enemies for control of invasive species of forests. The original focus of the IWBCISF workshop was to summarize 15 years (1993–2007) of cooperation between the USDA Forest Service and various organizations in P. R. China, but has expanded to include the Asian-Pacific Region and beyond. Read the full report at: <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-7/70000/70300/70308/>

IUFRO at the United Nations Climate Change Conference and "Forest Day", Bali

By Alexander Buck, IUFRO Deputy Executive Director

The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia, was held from 3-15 December 2007. The conference involved a series of events that were attended by a total of about 10,800 participants from various nations.

In parallel with the UN Climate Change Conference, a "Forest Day" was organized by CIFOR and co-hosted by CPF partner organizations including IUFRO. The Forest Day was convened in order to reinforce the momentum and inform the discussions related to forests under negotiation at the Bali Climate Conference. It was attended by more than 800 participants, comprising both forest and climate experts.

IUFRO contributed to the Forest Day in three ways: it served as an official co-host of the Forest Day; it organized a side event on "Linking decision-making with knowledge about forest adaptation to climate change – the contribution of the Joint CPF Initiative on Science and Technology"; and it was formally represented in the high-level closing plenary by the IUFRO President (see photo).

Forest issues have featured more strongly on the agenda of the UNFCCC than ever before. Through its decision on REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation), the global climate community has agreed to take "meaningful action" towards addressing the problem of deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. Through this decision, a key item on the agenda of "traditional" international forest policy fora has

finally been firmly placed on the climate agenda. A key challenge in the context of REDD will be to take into adequate consideration the social dimension of REDD as well as the multiple services provided by forests. This may offer interesting entry points for the science collaboration in IUFRO.

Through the inclusion of an entire section on enhanced action on adaptation, the Bali Conference acknowledged that adaptation constitutes a central building block of a post-2012 climate agreement. In this context, the Bali Ac-



From left: Yvo de Boer (UNFCCC), Don K Lee (IUFRO), Emmanuel Ze Mekka (ITTO), Boen Purnama (Indonesian Ministry of Forestry) during the Closing Plenary of the Forest Day. (Photo: <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop13/fd>)

tion Plan, among others, stipulates the consideration of "ways to strengthen the catalytic role of the Convention in encouraging multilateral bodies, the public and private sectors and civil society, building on synergies among activities and processes, as a means to support adaptation in a coherent and integrated manner." The newly established IUFRO-led Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change constitutes such a synergistic collaborative process and offers the potential for a specific thematic contribution by IUFRO. [All side event presentations.](#)

IAWS Academy Lecture delivered by Xavier Deglise

By Howard Rosen, (former Deputy Coordinator of Div. 5)

The International Academy of Wood Science Lecture program was established to honor distinguished achievements in wood science, which in turn encourages high standards of research and publication in wood science. An Academy Lecture is usually presented at the IUFRO All Division 5 Conferences, which this time was convened in Taipei, Taiwan. IAWS President, Professor Xavier Deglise, was honored on October 31, 2007 for his high standard of distinguished research in wood chemistry and science and education administration in wood technology. His talk, A Scientific Itinerary: Physical Chemistry to Wood Science, described his scientific journey from working with very simple molecules like hydrogen super-oxides to reach a complex macromolecular structure like wood. He started a new teaching and research organization, which became ENSTIB

in Epinal, France, staffed with a multidisciplinary team to fulfill the main industrial needs in Drying, Protection, Gluing, Finishing, Processing and Machining, Construction and Wood for Energy.



Howard Rosen and Xavier Deglise

Obituary

Jean Pardé left us on January 9, 2008, two days after his 89th birthday. Jean was very proactive in IUFRO between 1968 and 1986. He was Deputy Coordinator and Coordinator of Section 25 "Study of Growth and Yield, and Forest Management" from 1968 to 1970. Then he became Coordinator of Division 6 "General Subjects" from 1971 to 1981. He ended his IUFRO carrier as French representative in the International Council during the 1986 Congress in Ljubljana.

He was considered a very strong supporter of IUFRO in France through the organization of several interdivision meetings and by writing many articles on the Union in French forestry journals. He also promoted IUFRO in French speaking Africa.

Although three of his relatives lost their lives during the Second World War, one of his main achievements was the re-establishment of co-operation between France and Germany in the mid-1950s. He started with a visit to forest research scientists in Freiburg



*Jean Pardé and his wife
Solange in September
2006*

i/Breisgau and later extended contacts to other German universities and research stations such as Göttingen and Trippstadt, and also Hamburg and several others.

He was Doctor *Honoris Causa* of the University of Munich, Germany, and of Université Laval, Québec, Canada. He received the Wilhelm Leopold Pfeil Prize for the FVS Foundation in Hamburg and the H.C. Burckhardt Medal from Göttingen University. He was also Honorary Member of the "Accademia Italiana di Scienze Forestali".

His outstanding IUFRO carrier was recognized in 1982 when he was elected Honorary Member.

Thank you Jean for your outstanding forest research carrier and your highly efficient IUFRO involvement!

*By his brother in law, Eric Teissier du Cros,
former IUFRO Vice President "Science"*

Publications

Proceedings - Non-Timber Forest Products

IUFRO Research Group 5.11.00 together with the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions recently published the proceedings of the technical sessions organized by RG 5.11 for the XII IUFRO World Congress held in Brisbane, Australia in 2005. For copies, contact: James Chamberlain, <jachambe(at)vt.edu>

Proceedings - International Conference on Transfer of Forest Science Knowledge and Technology

Editors: Cynthia Miner, Ruth Jacobs, Dennis Dykstra and Becky Bittner
Troutdale, OR, USA, May 10-13, 2005 (IUFRO 6.06.01 and 5.12.00); Gen. Tech. rep. PNW-GTR-726. Portland, OR: USDA-FS, Pacific Northwest Research Station, 255. p.

Forests in Landscapes: Ecosystem Approaches to Sustainability

Paperback edition now available.
The book is edited by Jeffrey A. Sayer (Senior Associate of WWF International's Forests for Life Programme) and Stewart Maginnis (Head of the Forest Conservation Programme at IUCN). Paperback ISBN: 1844071960 / 9781844071968
Publication date: September 2007
Contact: G Freese, <gudrun.freese(at)earthscan.co.uk>

Realizing Community Futures

Book on participatory modeling by Jerry Vanclay, Ravi Prabhu and Fergus Sinclair, entitled (2006, London, Earthscan) <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/realizingfutures/ref/home/index.htm>

Forest Hydrology – Results of Research in Germany and Russia

Editors Part I: H Puhlmann, R Schwarze; Editors Part II: S F Federov, S V Marunich (dec.), Koblenz 2007. Published by IHP-HWRP (Fax: +49-0-261 1306 5422). ISSN 1614-1180.

NFT News

Visit <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-2/2000/20800/20802/newsletters/en/> and read the latest news on improvement and culture of nitrogen fixing trees.

Join the IUFRO Mailing Lists

Mailing lists are probably the easiest way to stay abreast of new developments in IUFRO and your field of expertise. By joining in you can:

- network with scientists in IUFRO
- debate leading-edge issues
- learn about new publications, references, websites
- pick up tips on how to solve problems
- ask questions and solicit answers from fellow scientists
- receive and spread announcements for meetings, workshops, seminars

To learn more about this free IUFRO tool visit:
<http://www.iufro.org/science/iufro-mailing-lists/>

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.

10-12 March

COST Forest Workshop on "Forest ecosystems in a changing environment: identifying future monitoring and research needs"

Istanbul, Turkey

IUFRO [7.01.00](#), CLRTAP, BFH

Contact: Richard Fischer, fischer(at)holz.uni-hamburg.de;
Website: <http://www.costforest2008.org/>

Postponed to: 25-26 March 2008

Forests, Bioenergy and Climate Change

Casablanca, Morocco

IUFRO [4.02.01](#), [7.01.00](#), [8.00.00](#),

[Task Force](#) on Forests and Carbon Sequestration

Contact: Mohammed Ellatifi, m.ellatifi(at)yahoo.fr
Website: <http://www.geocities.com/sylva.monde/first.htm?20075?200822>

31 March - 1 April 2008

IUFRO-SPDC Pre-Conference Training Workshop: "Mountain Forestry Development: Working effectively at the interface of forest science and forest policy"

Vienna, Austria

IUFRO-SPDC

Contact: Michael Kleine, kleine(at)iufro.org
Website: <http://www.iufro.org/science/special/spdc/actpro/wkspmal07/wkspvienna/>
and

2-4 April 2008

Mountain Forests in a Changing World: Advances in research on sustainable management and the role of academic education

Vienna, Austria

BOKU

Contact: Georg Gratzer, mountainforestry(at)boku.ac.at
Website: <http://mountainforestry.boku.ac.at/>

7-9 April 2008

COST Strategic Workshop "Global Change and Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions"

Innsbruck, Austria

IUFRO [8.00.00](#),

[Task Force](#) on Forests and Carbon Sequestration

Contact: Alex Mosseler, amossele(at)nrccan.gc.ca
Website: <http://bfw.ac.at/rz/bfwcms.web?dok=6202>

15-20 June 2008

IUFRO All Division 3 Conference

Sapporo, Japan

IUFRO [3.00.00](#)

Contact: Rin Sakurai,
JFESiufro(at)hatch.fr.a.u-tokyo.ac.jp
Website: <http://jfes.ac.afrc.go.jp/IUFRO2008.html>

15-19 June 2009

Council on Forest Engineering Annual Meeting: Environmentally Sound Forest Operations

North Lake Tahoe, California, United States

IUFRO [3.00.00](#), COFE

Contact: Bruce Hartsough, brhartsough(at)ucdavis.edu
Website: <http://www.cofe.org/>

5-8 August 2008

Biodiversity in Forest Ecosystems and Landscapes

Kamloops, Canada

IUFRO [8.00.00](#), [8.02.00](#), [1.01.05](#)

Contact: Jean-Michel Carnus,
Jean-Michel.Carnus(at)pierroton.inra.fr
Website: <http://www.tru.ca/iufro.html>

25-28 August 2008

IUFRO-CTIA 2008 Joint Meeting: Adaptation, Breeding and Conservation in the Era of Forest Tree Genomics and Environmental Change

Quebec, Canada

IUFRO [2.04.01](#), [2.04.10](#)

Contact: Jean Bousquet, info(at)iufro-ctia2008.ca
Website: <http://www.iufro-ctia2008.ca/>

25-28 August 2008

Conference on "Adaptation of Forests and Forest Management to Climate Change with Emphasis on Forest Health – Review of Science, Policies, and Practices"

Umeå, Sweden

IUFRO [1.00.00](#), [8.00.00](#), [TF](#) on Forest Science-Policy Interface, [TF](#) on Traditional Forest Knowledge, SLU, FAO

Contact: Björn Hanell, bjorn.hanell(at)ssko.slu.se
<http://www.forestadaptation2008.net/home/en/>

27 August 2008

Workshop "Greenhouse gas budget of soils – hotspots of emissions / COST 639 (Eurosoil 2008)

Vienna, Austria,

IUFRO [8.00.00](#), [TF](#) on Forests and Carbon Sequestration

Contact: Robert Jandl, Robert.jandl(at)bfw.gv.at
Website: <http://www.ecsss.net/web/frontend/view.php?MENUID=230>

27 August 2008

Workshop "Humus as an Ecological Indicator" (Eurosoil 2008)

Vienna, Austria

IUFRO [8.02.03](#)

Contact: Michael Englisch, Michael.englisch(at)bfw.gv.at
Website: <http://www.ecsss.net/web/frontend/view.php?MENUID=230&USERNAME=&TEMPID>

16-18 September 2008

Landscape Ecology and Forest Management: Challenges and Solutions'

Chengdu, China

IUFRO [6.14.00](#), [8.01.02](#), [TF](#) Forests and Water Interactions

Contact: Shirong Liu, liusr(at)caf.ac.cn
Website: <http://research.eescience.utoledo.edu/lees/IUFRO/2008MTG/>

24-27 October 2008

Uneven-Aged Silviculture Meeting

Shizuoka, Japan

IUFRO [1.05.00](#)

Contact: Kevin O'Hara, ohara(at)nature.berkeley.edu

Website: <http://www.ffpri.affrc.go.jp/symposium/uneven-aged2008/index.html>

17-20 November 2008

Forest Sector Modeling: State-of-the-Art and Future Challenges in an Expanding Global Marketplace

Washington, United States

IUFRO [6.09.00](#)

Contact: John Perez-Garcia ,

perjohn(at)u.washington.edu

Website: http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/fr/research/tamm/Conference/FSM2008_MainFrame.htm

Other Meetings

International Year of Planet Earth

2007-2009: Earth Sciences for Society

The International Year runs from January 2007 to December 2009, the central year of the triennium (2008) having been proclaimed by the UN General Assembly as the UN Year. The UN sees the Year as a contribution to their sustainable development targets as it promotes wise (sustainable) use of Earth materials and encourages better planning and management to reduce risks for the world's inhabitants. Visit: <http://www.yearofplanetearth.org/>

12-14 February 2008

Intensive Forest Farming: The State of the Art

Ludhiana, India

Nat'l symposium organized by Punjab Agricultural Univ.

Contact: Sanjeev K Chauhan, chauhansk(at)dr.com

27-29 March 2008

Potential Drivers of Land Use Change in the Tropics: Impacts of Bioenergy and Avoided Deforestation

Annual conference, International Society of Tropical Foresters, Yale Student Chapter

New Haven, CT, USA

Contact: yaleistf(at)gmail.com

Website: <http://www.yale.edu/istf/>

31 March–1 April 2008

National wood balances - Empirical data gathering on sources and uses of wood, focussing on wood energy

Palais de Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Based on the results of the Joint UNECE/FAO/IEA/EC

Wood Energy Enquiry

Contact: Sebastian Hetsch,

sebastian.hetsch(at)unece.org

Website: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/workshops/2008/wood-balance/welcome.htm>

21-26 April 2008

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week – Forestry in a Changing World

Hanoi, Vietnam

Contact: Patrick Durst, AP-Forestry-Week@fao.org

Website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/44755/en/>

25-26 April 2008

Development of Non-wood Forest Products (in Spanish)

Santo Domingo, República Dominicana 2008

FUNDESCO

Contact: Gregorio Rosario, fundesco_rd(at)yahoo.com

Website: <http://groups.msn.com/voluntariosdefundesco>

19-30 May 2008

9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Bonn, Germany

Website: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/>

May 26–30 2008

Fundamentals of Genomics: 2nd Annual Training Course Conifer Forest Health Genomics

UBC, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Contact: Carol Ritland, critland(at)interchange.ubc.ca;

Website: [IUFRO 2.04.10](#)

1-4 June 2008

Urban Design and Ecology: International Perspectives

St. Petersburg, Russia

St. Petersburg Forest Technical Academy

Contact: imelnichuk(at)peterlink.ru

14 June-14 September 2008

Int'l Expo 2008: Water and Sustainable Development

Zaragoza, Spain

Website: http://www.expozaragoza2008.es/Home/seccion=3&seccionRaiz=3&idioma=en_GB.do

5-14 October 2008

IUCN World Conservation Congress

Barcelona, Spain

Website: <http://www.iucn.org/congress/2008/>

20-24 October 2008

European Forest Week

Brussels, Belgium, and Rome, Italy

Objectives: as expressed in MCPFE Warsaw Ministerial Statement, and based and building on recommendations from the EFC, TC, MCPFE/ELM, and EU Council
More information will be available soon!

26-30 October 2008

23rd Session, International Poplar Commission (IPC)

Beijing, P. R. China

Contact: Zhang Zhiqiang, ipc2008(at)bjfu.edu.cn

Website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/ipc2008/en/>

6-8 November 2008

The European Forest-based Sector: Bio-responses to address new climate and energy challenges?

Nancy, France

The French Administration (Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries), AgroParistech-ENGREF (Nancy), ECOFOR

Contact: Jean Luc Peyron, jean.luc.peyron(at)gmail.com