

THE ONLINE INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE GLOBAL FOREST SCIENCE NETWORK

Global Change and Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions

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A COST Strategic Workshop on "Global Change and Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions" took place in Innsbruck, Austria, from 7-9 April and attracted 342 scientists, experts, practitioners and scholars from 29 European and 10 non-European countries.

Key Issues and Results

- The ongoing global change (climate, demography, economy, society, politics and culture) concerns the whole world. It brings both positive and negative effects.
- Mountain regions are particularly sensitive to global change. Comprehensive monitoring systems can help to elaborate strategies which may lead to regional sustainable developments in the mountains.
- Long-term ecological research projects should include strong socio-economic components and should be based on harmonized international strategies. Future research activities should rest on the pillars: research + monitoring + education.

Research Needs

Monitoring of **climate change** and the development of locally valid climate scenarios with appropriate downscaling instruments are necessary. Adaptation strategies need to include the aspects of natural hazards.

Demographic changes (aging, migration, household changes etc.) are obvious and may be regarded as a second key driver of change in mountain regions. Depopulation and marginalization of remote areas cause many problems for ecology, economy and social coherence.

The desired sustainable **land use** requires updated concepts for land management. Research on land management and ecosystem services is a central need. The profits generated from agricultural and forestry products do not ensure sustainable land management in the present form. Marketing schemes for ecosystem services are increasingly required. Decisions on land management need to be based on a credible process of participation.

Tourism in mountain areas is affected by climate and demographic change and other effects of globalization (new destinations, growing mobility, and new target groups). There are positive and negative effects. Research on new concepts and adaptive strategies are a strong



Photo: Alpine landscape, by Judith Stoeger, IUFRO Headquarters

need. Tourism in mountain regions is strongly connected to the ecology and to traditional forms of land use. Therefore climate and land use change are decisive for the development of this sector.

Water is a central ecosystem service. As with the climate change and the effects of socio-economic globalization the demand will rise, but production will slow down, and adaptive strategies are to be found. This also concerns juridical, ownership and governance questions.

The rising **transport** causes problems for the Alps, for instance, whereas other mountains presently lack accessibility. Transport and transit questions have to be investigated in the regional context and with hindsight to future traffic corridors in Europe.

Research is no longer to be done in an ivory tower. A strong theory-practice compound as well as a functioning **interface with policy** are needed.

As the participants had different disciplinary backgrounds and came from almost all mountain regions of the world, the discussions demonstrated very clearly that future research must be designed in an **interdisciplinary** manner, as mountains are very complex systems. Furthermore it became very clear that stage and problems of the different mountain regions are not similar. Therefore the strategies to face the global change must be defined within the **local or regional context**.

Meeting webpage: <http://bfw.ac.at/mountain/>

Entomological Research in Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems

The 2nd MEDINSECT symposium from 5-9 May 2008 in Estoril (Portugal) was organized jointly by INIA-EFN (Portugal) and the University of Orléans (France), under the umbrella of IUFRO (co-sponsored by RG 7.03.00 Entomology).

There were four sessions on the following topics:

- Insect biodiversity and population genetics;
- Impact of emerging and exotic pests;
- Insect biology and relation with host trees;
- Forest decline, insect control and forestry practices.

The field visits allowed taking the dimension of the pinewood nematode problem in Portugal and its risk for the rest of Europe, and to largely discuss the cork oak dieback that presently occurs in several Mediterranean countries.

As for the first meeting in Rabat, Morocco, and in spite of a diversity of geographic origins among the participants, the presentations revealed a real identity of scientific interests, thus demonstrating the coherence of the group and justifying the focusing of the meeting on insects, while extending it to different kinds of Mediterranean ecosystems. Discussions involving most participants allowed large exchanges of information.

During the general conclusions, a rapid weighing up of the activities of the MEDINSECT group revealed that cooperative researches had been initiated as consequences of the first meeting in Rabat and that several new cooperative initiatives were also built up during the second meeting in Estoril. The group has recommended favoring exchanges between the south and the north rim



Photo: *Quercus suber* (cork oak) in Portugal

Credit: FAO, Christel Palmberg Lerche, photo ref. FO-0452

of the Mediterranean Sea, while focusing these exchanges on young scientists. The participants co-agreed that becoming an IUFRO Working Party would be beneficial for the group by making it better known by the world scientific community. The MEDINSECT group has decided to meet now every 3 years, alternating meetings on the north and the south rim of the Mediterranean Sea. It has been suggested that the third meeting could be held in May 2011 in Tunisia.

For more information on this meeting, contact the organizers Edmundo Sousa (Edmundo.Sousa(at)efn.com.pt) ; Pedro Naves (Pedro.Naves(at)efn.com.pt), and François Lieutier (francois.lieutier(at)univ-orleans.fr).

[Full Report](#) (Sandy Liebhold, C RG 7.03.00)

Honorary Doctorate Award to Former IUFRO President Jeff Burley by CATIE

The Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza - CATIE - at Turrialba, Costa Rica, awarded the degree of Doctor *honoris causa* to Professor Jeff Burley, for his services to international forest research and education.



From the left: Dr. John Beer, DDG; Professor Jeff Burley; Dr. José Campos Arce, DG; Dr. Ronnie de Camino, DDG

Jeff Burley is a Vice-Chairman of the Association and Director emeritus of the Oxford Forestry Institute. The award was presented by the newly appointed Director General of CATIE, Dr José Campos Arce, supported by a Director of Research and Development, Dr John Beer, both of whom were Professor Burley's students in Green College and in the Oxford Forestry Institute.

CATIE is one of the world's leading forestry and agroforestry research and educational institutes with particular focus on Central and South America; over a period of nearly half a century many staff of the OFI had worked in the region and several at CATIE itself, mainly financed by the British Government's Department for International Development or its predecessors.

During his stay in Costa Rica Professor Burley made two presentations on forestry, climate change and business to the Graduate School and to the Board, donors, partners and staff of CATIE in Turrialba. These were followed by a public lecture in the Presidential Palace in San José organized by the British Ambassador and the Peace with Nature Initiative founded by the country's president, Nobel Peace laureate Oscar Arias Sánchez.

Publications

Foliage, Shoot and Stem Diseases

Proceedings of the conference of IUFRO Working Party 7.02.02 "Foliage, shoot and stem diseases", held from 21-26 May 2007 in Sopron, Hungary. Acta Silvatica & Lignaria Hungarica. Special edition 2007. 292 p. Available at: <http://aslh.nyme.hu>. Order printed copies: aslh(at)nyme.hu

The Long History of Wood Utilization

Michael Grabner, News of Forest History Nr. V (39)/2008, EuroDendro 2008, Dieter Eckstein (ed.)

In this book of abstracts you will find 117 abstracts (34 oral presentations and 83 posters) divided into four sessions: Forest and wood utilization; Dendroclimatology; Forest growth, dynamics and protection against mass movements; Wood formation and wood anatomy

A web version is available on the publications section of the IUFRO [Noticeboard](#). A printed version is in preparation.

Announcements

USGS Landsat Archive for Free

The US Geological Survey's Landsat archive is a 35-year record of the Earth's surface that is valuable for a broad range of uses, ranging from climate change science to forest management to emergency response, plus countless other user applications. All Landsat data purchasing options from the USGS will be discontinued by February 2009, once the entire Landsat archive can be accessed at no charge. For further information on Landsat satellites and products, see <http://landsat.usgs.gov>

Looking for Authors

The Australian National University (ANU) is looking for authors interested to prepare ten papers on the livelihood impacts of payment for environmental services schemes, and implications for activities aimed to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

[Terms of reference](#) and [further information](#).

Contact: luca.tacconi(at)anu.edu.au

Seeking Lecturer in Forestry

Bangor University's College of Natural Sciences, School of the Environment & Natural Resources, is looking for a Lecturer in Forestry. The closing date for applications is 6 June 2008. Individual queries should be sent to the Head of School, David Wright: d.wright(at)bangor.ac.uk. [Advert.](#)

Seoul National University Faculty Positions

Seoul National University (SNU) invites applications for assistant/associate/full professor tenure track positions in the fields of "international forest and environmental policy", "remote sensing", and "industrial ecology applied to forest industry". Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent as early as possible to:

Professor YOUN Yeon-Chang <youn(at)snu.ac.kr> A list of positions will soon be published at: <http://www.useoul.edu/>

Two New Three-year Research Fellowship Positions at Oxford

The James Martin 21st Century School and the Environmental Change Institute in the Oxford University Centre for the Environment (OUCE) invite applications for a position as a senior James Martin Research Fellow in [Tropical Forest Governance](#) and a James Martin Research Fellow in [Climate Policy/Economics](#) ideally with a particular focus on tropical forests policy and economics.

The two positions are intended to promote the development of an expanding programme of research into Tropical Forest Science, Policy and Governance. There will also be opportunities for sabbaticals at Oxford in this subject area, to be advertised soon. The closing date for both applications is 30 June 2008.

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.

15-18 September 2008

International Symposium on Integrated Sustainable Livelihood Development in Mountain Forest Areas

Lin'an, Zhejiang Province, China

INBAR, IUFRO WP [5.11.05](#)

Contact: FU Jinhe, Email, jfu(at)inbar.int

14-17 October 2008

International Conference on Traditional Forest-related Knowledge and Sustainable Forest Management in Africa

Accra, Ghana

IUFRO [TF on TFK](#), CSIR, Univ. of Ghana

Contact: A. Oteng-Yeboah, otengyeboah(at)yahoo.co.uk

5-8 November 2008

9th Pacific Rim Bio-Based Composites Symposium

Rotorua, New Zealand

IUFRO Division [5.00.00](#)

Contact: Libby Stulen, libby.stulen(at)innovatek.co.nz

<http://www.biobased-composites.com/>

17-20 November 2008

Tropical Forestry Change in a Changing World (FORTROP II)

Bangkok, Thailand

IUFRO RG [1.02.00](#), Faculty of Forestry at Kasetsart Univ.

Contact: FORTROP2008(at)ku.ac.th

<http://www.forest.ku.ac.th/fortrop2008>

18-22 January 2010

11th International IUFRO Wood Drying Conference

Skellefteå, Sweden

IUFRO 5.04.06

Contact: Margot Sehlstedt-Persson, margot.sehlstedt-person(at)ltu.se: <http://www.wdc2010.org>