

THE ONLINE INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE GLOBAL FOREST SCIENCE NETWORK

Forests and Climate Change - The Impact of a Global Assessment

By Alexander Buck (GFEP Coordinator) and Tarun K. Bathija (IUFRO, PR & Communications)

"Adaptation of Forests and People to Climate Change", coordinated by IUFRO through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is the first product of the [Global Forest Expert Panels \(GFEP\)](#) initiative. Authored by 35 leading scientists in the field of forestry and climate change, the global assessment provides up-to-date information on the ability of forests to adapt to climate change. The report played a key role during the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) last April.

UNFF welcomed the report

This report presented to more than 600 participants the state of scientific knowledge regarding the current and projected future impacts of climate change on forests and people along with options for adaptation. The UNFF welcomed the report and adopted a resolution on forests in a changing environment taking into account several key messages of the assessment report. Furthermore, it invited the GFEP to continue to provide science-based information relevant to the themes of the Forum.

Social and economic consequences of climate change

Professor Risto Seppälä, Chair of the Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change, stated that projected increases in frequency and severity of extreme weather events and forest disturbances will have far-reaching social and economic consequences particularly for the forest-dependent poor. At the same time, the assessment indicates that climate change can also have positive effects on forest ecosystem services. As an example, it can increase the supply of timber in some regions and even globally – due to increased tree growth. Professor Seppälä also pointed out the limitations in our current knowledge. More information about the regional and local impacts of climate change, the socio-economic impacts and the effectiveness of management and policy measures of adaptation is still needed.



"Despite the limitations of current knowledge, climate change is progressing too quickly to postpone adaptation actions pending the outcomes of future studies!"

– Risto Seppälä (Chair of the Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change)

Making forests fit for change

The side event *Making Forests Fit for Change* organized by IUFRO, allowed more time for in-depth presentations and discussions. Professor Andreas Fischlin, one of the lead authors of the report and a coordinating lead author with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), presented the results of the assessment regarding current and projected environmental impacts of climate change on forests. He especially pointed out the risk of losing the carbon sink regulating service of forests beyond a global warming of 2.5°C relative to pre-industrial levels.

"Even if adaptation measures are fully implemented, unmitigated climate change would, during the course of the current century, exceed the adaptive capacity of many forests", said Professor Fischlin. "The fact remains that the only way to ensure that forests do not suffer unprecedented harm is to achieve large reductions in greenhouse gas emissions."

Professor Jeremy Rayner, another leading author of the report, stated that sustainable forest management (SFM) is integral to reducing the vulnerability of forests to climate change. Therefore, commitment to achieving the goals of SFM must be strengthened at both the international and national levels. *"The international dialogue on forests has succeeded in forming a consensus around the idea of SFM. The time spent for forging a new consensus can never be re-covered",* said Professor Rayner.

The next steps

IUFRO will also present the report to negotiators at the United Nations Climate Change Talks to be held this June in Bonn, Germany. This event is a significant step in the international climate change negotiations that will culminate in the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, this December. So far forest-related deliberations have focused mainly on carbon emissions from deforestation. The analysis shows that policy makers also must consider how the world's forests are likely to suffer as the earth is getting warmer.

REGIONAL IMPACTS

Tropical forests: increased productivity where water is available, but decline in dry areas; considerable risk of biodiversity losses.

Subtropical forests: decreased productivity in most parts; risk of severe biodiversity losses.

Boreal forests: particularly affected; increased tree growth in most areas; more fires and pests.

Temperate forests: less affected than other forest types; both increased and decreased tree growth.

Announcements

Sad News

We are deeply grieved to inform you that our long-standing colleague **Ian Calder**, Coordinator of the IUFRO Task Force on Forests and Water Interactions and member of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change passed away earlier this month. Our sincere sympathy goes to his family and friends.

We plan to publish a longer obituary in the next issue of IUFRO News.

New: IUFRO Meeting Report Form

There is a new meeting report form available for members at <http://www.iufro.org/discover/working/>. Organizers of IUFRO meetings and IUFRO focal persons at IUFRO co-sponsored meetings, respectively, are kindly requested to fill it in and return it to IUFRO Headquarters within two weeks after their meetings. Thus, important information about the results of conferences can be posted rapidly at the relevant IUFRO web pages and may be used for IUFRO News and the IUFRO Annual Report.

Thanks a lot for your kind cooperation!

Join Urban Forest Data Standardization Team

Urban forestry professionals are invited to participate in a process of developing data standards for urban forest data collection and recording. This standardization process is being hosted by the International Society of Arboriculture, the U.S. Forest Service, and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

If you are willing to serve on a standards committee or subcommittee to help develop these standards, or to serve as reviewer of draft standards documents, please **e-mail confirmation** to David Nowak (dnowak(at)fs.fed.us) and Sharon Lilly (slilly(at)isa-arbor.com) and please be sure to include your contact information and your area of expertise.

You can access a PDF file outlining the International Urban Forest Data Standards Committee, at:

<http://unri.org/iufro/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/standardization-team.pdf>

Opinion Survey - 'forestknowledge.net'

The *www.waldwissen.net* platform invites German speaking users to state their opinion on the platform's performance and fill in a questionnaire at:

<http://www.waldwissen.net/fragebogen>

Guide to Proposals on REDD Available in Five Languages

The "Little REDD Book", compiled by the Global Canopy Programme in collaboration with the Prince's Rainforest Project, is now available in French, Spanish and English. Translations into Portuguese and Bahasa Indonesia will be available in June. Visit: <http://www.littleREDDbook.org>



XXIII IUFRO World Congress - Important Dates in 2009

Distribution of Information Package brochure: 31 May 09
Deadline for Abstract Submission: 31 Dec 09

Distribution of Registration Package brochure: 31 Dec 09
<http://www.iufro2010.com/>



XIII World Forestry Congress: Register now

<http://www.wfc2009.org>

Students' Column

In this "Students' Column" IUFRO News plans to present information for and from students of forest science and related disciplines and also portraits of individual students to learn about their professional interests and plans. We start with introducing to you the current President of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA):



Portrait of a Forest Science Student

Frauke Thorade (23) from Germany is the current IFSA President. She is doing a Master's programme on Forest Management and Utilization at the University of Göttingen, and works in a forestry research institute in Northern Germany.

Frauke feels that gaining experience at the research institute is a great opportunity for her to become familiar with the functioning of forest research facilities. She has a great interest in forest ecology and the social role of forests and wants to gain more insight into the relations between forest management, the social life in forests and the situation of the ecosystem. She would like to carry out research on the impact of forest management on water, soil, plants and/or biodiversity.

Regarding IFSA she wrote in the introduction letter of the IFSA team 2008-2009, "For me, IFSA is mainly about cultural understanding. It allows exchanging knowledge about forestry, but we also get to learn about other countries and people. IFSA gives us the chance to tell the world what we have to say and collaborate together to do things at the international level. I feel it is something everyone should take part in before starting your working life."

IFSA and IUFRO

Coinciding with IUFRO's strategic goal of strengthening communication with students, it is one of the objectives of IFSA to promote co-operation amongst forestry students and the professional forestry sector. One way of achieving this goal is by establishing partnerships with international organizations such as IUFRO. The **IUFRO liaison officer in IFSA** is **Michaël Rivoire** from France, [iufro.io\(at\)ifsa.net](mailto:iufro.io(at)ifsa.net). Visit the IFSA website at: <http://www.ifsa.net/main.php>

IUFRO Meetings

NOTE: This is not a full list of IUFRO meetings!

For a comprehensive list of IUFRO events, please visit our [online calendar](#). Find more details on the [homepages](#) of IUFRO Units involved. Non-IUFRO meetings are also announced on the IUFRO [Noticeboard](#).

Also search for forest-related events at: <http://www.gfis.net>

24 June 2009

Society of Wood Science and Technology 2009 International Annual Convention

Boise, Idaho, United States

[IUFRO 5.00.00](#)

Contact: Victoria L. Herian, vicki(at)swst.org

<http://www.swst.org/meetings/AM09/index.html>

17-20 August 2009

Meeting Multiple Demands for Forest Information: New Technologies in Forest Data Gathering

Mount Gambier, Australia

[IUFRO 4.01.00](#)

[IUFRO 4.02.03](#)

[IUFRO 6.15.00](#)

[IUFRO 3.01.00](#)

Contact: Jim O'Hehir, O'hehir.Jim(at)forestrysa.sa.gov.au
Jan Rombouts, Rombouts.Jan(at)forestrysa.sa.gov.au

<http://www.alloccasionsgroup.com/IUFRO>

6-10 September 2009

Gender and Natural Resources

Fort Collins, Colorado, USA

[IUFRO 6.08.02](#)

Contact: Siegfried Lewark,

Siegfried.lewark(at)fobawi.uni-freiburg.de

<http://www.iufrogendercolorado.info/>

26-30 October 2009

Eurodendro2009: Challenges, Developments, Advances

Cala Millor, Mallorca, Spain

[IUFRO 5.01.07](#)

Contact: Margaret Devall, mdevall(at)fs.fed.us

<http://www.swan.ac.uk/geography/Research/eurodendro2009/>

22-26 March 2010

4th International Casuarina Meeting

Guangzhou, China

[IUFRO 2.08.02](#)

Contact: Antoine Kalinganire, a.kalinganire(at)cgjar.org,
Zhong Chonglu, zcl(at)ritf.ac.cn

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-2/20000/20800/20802/activities/>

24-26 May 2010

1st Int'l Conference of Soil and Roots Engineering Relationship (LANDCON 1005)

Ardebil Province, Iran

[IUFRO 8.00.00](#)

Contact: Alex Mosseler,

alex.mosseler(at)nrcan-rncan.gc.ca ;

Habibi Bibalani, habibibibalani(at)gmail.com

<http://www.landcon-ir.com/>

23-28 August 2010

Promoting Urban Forest Services in Partnership between Scientists and Communities - Urban forestry session at the IUFRO 2010 World Congress

Seoul, South Korea

[IUFRO 6.14.00](#)

Contact: Cecil Konijnendijk,

cecil(at)woodscape-consult.com

<http://www.iufro2010.com/>

Other meetings

27 July – 9 August 2009

IFFS 2009 in Indonesia - Forest Conservation: Youth's Role in Abbreviating the Long Process

Bogor, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

The International Forestry Students' Symposium – IFSS

Organized by Bogor Agricultural University and Universitas Gadjah Mada

<http://www.ifss09.net/>

<http://ifss09.wordpress.com> (blog)

23-28 August 2009

2nd World Congress of Agroforestry

Nairobi, Kenya

Sponsored by World Agroforestry Centre, UNEP,

University of Florida, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Contact: wca2009(at)cgjar.org

<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/wca2009>

16-19 September 2009

Forestry Serving Urbanised Societies in the North Atlantic Region

Reykjavik, Iceland

International conference, organized under the Icelandic chairmanship of the Nordic Council of Ministers, co-

organized by the Nordic-Baltic Centre of Advanced Research on Forestry Serving Urbanised Societies, CARE-

FOR-US (www.sl.life.ku.dk/care-for-us).

<http://skogur.is/radstefna-sept-2009>

28-29 October 2009

Rural Areas Shaping the Future – Rural Future 09

Uppsala, Sweden

Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and Ministry of Agriculture

Contact: Stefan Källman,

Stefan.kallman(at)agriculture.ministry.se

<http://www-conference.slu.se/ruralfuture09>

17-19 November 2009

Malaysian Urban Forestry Conference 2009

Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia,

This international event organized by FRIM will be held back-to-back with an FAO workshop on urban and peri-urban forestry.

http://unri.org/iufro/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/uf_2009_malaysian1.pdf