

THE ONLINE INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE GLOBAL FOREST SCIENCE NETWORK

Peer-to-peer Learning among Land Owners

By Teppo Hujala and Heimo Karppinen (Metla, Finland)

The international symposium of IUFRO [3.08.00 Small-scale Forestry](#) held in Kuusamo, Finland, from 3-5 April 2011 drew some 30 participants from nine countries and focused on "Recent Advances in Land Owner Extension".

Land owners need more innovative guidance

More and more land owners and forest owners live in urban areas away from their properties and have no or weak connections to rural social networks. These people tend to be well-educated and have regular jobs far from land-based businesses or they are retired. They have varying perceptions of their land and multiple motivations towards different land use activities.

Simultaneously, demand for private land is increasing. Among other things, climate change mitigation opens new perspectives for sustainable land use relating e.g. to bioenergy, biodiversity, and new types of forest management. New forest-based industries like nature tourism and carbon markets as well as forests' health impacts shape the discourse of rural land use. Today's land owners tend to need more and more support, advice and education in taking decisions about how to manage their land and what kind of voluntary practices or co-operatives they participate.

Consequently, education, information and guidance addressed to land owners need to take new and innovative forms in order to reach the target group and benefit both owners themselves and society in general. Traditional natural resource planning and guidance services can no longer fulfill the needs of a modern land owner.

Purpose of the Symposium

The overall purpose of the Symposium was to shed light on the new forms and approaches of land owner extension, forestry advisory and rural communication with a special focus on peer-to-peer learning among land owners. Three keynote presentations were given concerning cooperation of forest owners, social learning and the Finnish forestry extension organizations and their activities. The sessions focused on the following themes:

- * Peer-to-peer learning
- * Forest planning, extension and services
- * Cooperation of forest owners
- * Adult learning
- * Reshaping communities
- * New approaches in focus



Photo by Outi Virkkula

Next steps in promoting peer-to-peer learning

Symposium participants concluded that family forest owners' peer networks are worth strengthening, because this would make the work of professional forestry extension organizations easier. Discussions with other land owners complement the advice given by professional foresters. Meanwhile, peer-to-peer information involves risks such as disseminating false information or misunderstandings. Concrete next steps in promoting peer-to-peer learning among land owners will include e.g. studying the functioning of study circles, conducting test seminars with land owners as key actors, and training of foresters and lay land owners to act as mentors on field trips and virtual peer-to-peer training courses.

Websites:

Presentations:

<http://www.metla.fi/hanke/3521/symposium/#programme>

Participant feedback:

http://www.metla.fi/hanke/3521/symposium/Kuusamo_feedback.pdf

Organizers and/or sponsors

Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla), University of Helsinki, Oulu University of Applied Sciences, the Nordplus Adult Learning Programme (project "Mapping the peer-to-peer model for enhancing adult learning among land owners"), Finnish Society of Forest Science, and Niemi Foundation.



Photo: Chan H.T.

**Interview with
Dr. Su See Lee,
IUFRO Vice-President
for Task Forces,
Special Programmes,
Projects and
IUFRO-led Initiatives**

Q: Dr. Lee, you are a senior scientist with the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) specialized in forest pathology. Why did you choose a career in forest science in the first place?

A: I have always been interested in biology and decided to specialize in botany for my first degree at the University of Malaya. That led me to my first job as a tutor at the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) with the opportunity to also pursue my Masters degree at that university. UPM subsequently appointed me as a lecturer in the faculty to teach and conduct research mainly in forest pathology.

A grant from the International Foundation for Science (IFS) started me off on my first research project on dipterocarp mycorrhizas which sparked off my interest to pursue my Ph.D. at the University of Aberdeen. From then on, **I was totally hooked on unraveling the many unknowns in tropical forest biology, in particular, the intricate and complicated relationships between fungi and trees.** In 1990 when the chance came to take up a full-time research position at FRIM, I decided to switch from academia to full-time research and have since been enjoying conducting research into diseases of tropical forest trees, dipterocarp ectomycorrhizas, macrofungal diversity and also ethnomyecology.

Q: Would you encourage young people to take up a similar career in forest science today and what advice would you give them?

A: Yes, but perhaps not a similar career path as mine. **A career in forest science offers many interesting opportunities,** especially in view of the challenges that we face today in this increasingly globalized world of depleting natural resources. Forest science has a very important role to play in finding solutions to issues related to climate change, biodiversity conservation, bioenergy, services from the forest, new bio-materials, just to name a few. So if you have the interest and enjoy meeting some of these challenges, you could find a very fulfilling career in forest science.

Q: You started to get involved in IUFRO in 1995. Now you are the first female Vice-President of IUFRO. How did you experience the development of IUFRO in this time span especially in the light of gender and regional balance?

A: Recognition of IUFRO's role in forestry and forest research has increased over the years and IUFRO now plays a significant role in many important international fora. **Over the years I have also seen an improved gender and regional balance in IUFRO.** Now I see more female officeholders - for example, almost one third of the current IUFRO [Board](#) members are women, more officeholders from developing countries, and the active participation of younger members in IUFRO meetings and world congresses is most encouraging. This is quite a change from the IUFRO which I first knew and the face of IUFRO is now a more modern and younger one.

Q: In IUFRO you are responsible for Task Forces, Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives. They are all tools for achieving IUFRO's strategic goals. How do you see the role of the Task Forces in this context?

A: The IUFRO [Task Forces](#) are set up for a specific period of time only and are aimed at strengthening IUFRO activities in specific areas and to contribute to the on-going international processes and activities. For example, the Task Force on Forests and Climate Change will no doubt be making some very pertinent contributions to the on-going dialogue at the IPCC and UNFCCC while the Task Force on Forest Biodiversity Conservation with its focus on ecosystem services will be able to make significant contributions to the CBD strategic plan and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Our other **Task Forces are tackling some current "hot topics"** such as Forest Bioenergy, Forests for People and Forests and Water Interactions, and the Task Force on Resources for the Future aims to put IUFRO at the forefront of identifying new resources and trends in forestry and forest research.

Apart from making contributions to the international processes, the Task Forces will also be producing technical publications, state-of-knowledge reports, conducting technical workshops and meetings. These activities and their outputs will provide important guidelines for forest science, thereby **increasing the visibility of science-based research and IUFRO's ability to respond to new and emerging issues.** I strongly believe that the Task Forces are well placed to further enhance IUFRO's role as the global network for science cooperation.

Q: What have, in your view, been the major contributions of the Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives to reaching goals such as strengthening scientific capacity and the work at the science-policy interface?

A: Training courses conducted by the IUFRO Special Programme for Developing Countries ([SPDC](#)) have benefited many young (and not so young) developing-country scientists while the Global Forest Information Service ([GFIS](#)) has provided and continues to provide forest related information to an increasingly larger global audience. The reports and policy briefs provided by the IUFRO-led initiative "Global Forest Expert Panels" ([GFEP](#)) and IUFRO's Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment ([WFSE](#)) have been well received and succeeded in raising awareness among international policy and decision makers about some current issues. Overall these **programmes, projects and initiatives have enhanced IUFRO's profile as a provider of independent science-based information.**

Q: How do you see the future of forest-related research and how can national and regional forest research organizations benefit from global research cooperation as offered by IUFRO.

A: I believe that forest-related research in the future will be determined by four major factors,

- i) the shift from natural to anthropogenic resources,**
- ii) the effects and implications of globalization and capacity building (or lack of) on the supply of and trade in forest resources,**
- iii) demands for services from the forest, and**
- iv) engineering challenges in the development of new products and biomaterials.**

The global research cooperation offered by IUFRO can strengthen capacity and research efforts at national and regional forest research organizations through information sharing, networking, training and active collaboration between partner institutions.

Global Change and Forest Diseases: New Threats, New Strategies

By Julio J. Diez, Professor of Forest Pathology at the University of Valladolid, Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO [7.02.02](#)

The biannual meeting of IUFRO Working Party 7.02.02 Foliage, Shoot and Stem Diseases of Forest Trees, took place at Montesclaros Monastery in Cantabria, Spain, from 23-28 May 2011. There were 73 participants from 18 different countries, and a total of 71 presentations. The meeting offered the chance of discussing different aspects related to global change and forest pathology, mainly concerning globalization, climate change, and forest policies. The venue of the event, the Monastery of Nuestra Señora de Montesclaros, surrounded by temperate forest close to the Cantabrian Mountains, was the perfect setting for the event.



Group photo by Pablo Martínez Álvarez

The meeting provided an opportunity for the presentation, exchange and dissemination of information and experiences related to forest pathology, especially about new pathogens and diseases which threaten forest stands worldwide, fungal phylogeny, pathogenicity assays, control strategies, etc. New strategies to avoid their spread were mainly discussed in the sessions concerning globalization and invasive species.

One of the aims of the meeting was to attract forest pathology researchers from a broad range of academic disciplines. The group is now drafting the Declaration of Montesclaros with conclusions and recommendations concerning global change and forest pathology.

A book of abstracts is available on the meeting web page at: <http://www.iufro2011.com>

Division 7 Award to Gaston Laflamme

The 7.02.02 meeting in Spain provided the ideal occasion for honouring Gaston Laflamme for his long-standing and dedicated services to IUFRO Division 7.



Laflamme, who is a forest pathologist at the Laurentian Forestry Centre in Québec, Canada, started as Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Working Party 7.02.02 in 1996, served as Coordinator of 7.02.02 from 1998-2007, was Deputy Coordinator of 7.02.01 from 1997-2003 and Coordinator of the same Unit from 2003-2005, and eventually became Coordinator of Research Group 7.02.00 from 2006-2010.

He should have received the award at the IUFRO World Congress in Seoul in 2010 but, unfortunately, he could not participate then. So IUFRO Vice-President Mike Wingfield was delighted about the opportunity of personally recognizing Gaston Laflamme's services to IUFRO in Spain.

Building Partnerships in International Forestry Education and Research

Vancouver, Canada, 27-29 April 2011

In celebration of the 2011 International Year of Forests, and in recognition of concerns about forestry education and research worldwide, senior representatives of education and research institutions, international organizations and students convened at the University of British Columbia, Faculty of Forestry, for the "Forestry Leaders Summit".

The meeting focused on concerns about the need to improve the skill sets of forestry graduates in order for them to be able to effect forest policy decisions and the need for forestry research to be responsive to global forest policies. In particular, the meeting examined how better and more collaborative partnerships among education and dedicated research institutions could advance effective and more relevant forestry education and research for the benefit of society and attract even more students to international forestry.

IUFRO President Niels Elers Koch and immediate past Vice-President of IUFRO John Innes, Dean of UBC Faculty of Forestry, were among the eminent speakers at this event.

Recommendations and conclusions of the meeting can be found at:

<http://www.iufro.org/news/article/2011/06/12/forestry-leaders-summit-communique/>

Emerging Issues of Forest Inventory and Integration with Remote Sensing

By Piermaria Corona, Coordinator of IUFRO 4.02.06

On 20 May 2011, a workshop on "Emerging Issues of Forest Inventory and Integration with Remote Sensing" was held at the Italian Council for Research and Experimentation in Agriculture (CRA) in Rome (Italy), with invited presentations from acknowledged scientists. The workshop, promoted by Prof. Piermaria Corona (University of Tuscia, Italy) and facilitated by Prof. Giuseppe Scarascia Mugnozza (CRA) as the chairman, was attended by 45 experts from Italy, Finland and Slovenia.



Photo by G Wolfrum

Natural resource management needs appropriate assessments

A number of international agreements and commitments such as the Forest Principles of Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, emphasize that an appropriate assessment is a prerequisite for sound management of the world's natural resources. Mandated periodic surveys, like forest inventories, provide a unique opportunity to identify and properly satisfy natural resource management information needs. Distinctively, forest inventories can be regarded as effective tools for estimating the kind, amount, extent and condition of forest resources over large areas. The use of statistical sampling coupled with periodic re-measurements of permanent sample units provides the basis for measuring changes in forest conditions and estimating trends.

Challenges

Furthermore, over the last decades there has been a worldwide trend of discontinuing stand-wise inventories in

favor of regional and national forest inventories. This raises the need of taking into account small area estimation requirements within large scale forest inventories. Another topical point is the treatment of non response related to the field inaccessibility that is a relevant issue in mountainous and tropical countries.

The role of remote sensing technology

Finally, as remote sensing technology and associated analytical methods continue to improve rapidly with reasonable costs, they are likely to play an even more substantial role for forest monitoring and assessment in the future: coupling the remotely sensed data with the sample inventory data to improve the precision of the inventory estimates; exploiting the inventory data for the correction of map aerial estimates; coupling the remotely sensed data for an entire region with sample inventory data to produce maps of the inventoried forest attributes. An even more relevant issue is to exploit the potential of satellite and aerial laser scanning application for large area forest inventory purposes. However, proper sampling designs and field measurements remain the core issues of forest inventory, as pillars which cannot be emphasized enough.

Multipurpose resources surveys

Workshop presentations highlighted that forest inventories are currently evolving towards multipurpose resource surveys and are broadening their scope in three major directions: (i) inclusion of additional variables not directly related to timber assessment and wood volume growth, such as biodiversity attributes; (ii) enhancement of carbon-related assessment issues (forest harvesting included), e.g. for supporting REDD+ monitoring and reporting or for assessing emissions from forest fires; (iii) extension of the target population to include non-traditional objects, like urban forests and trees outside the forest.

The workshop was organized by IUFRO 4.02.06 – Resource data in boreal and temperate regions; IUFRO 4.02.04 – Geographic and management information systems, the Italian Academy of Forest Sciences (AISF), and the Italian Society of Silviculture and Forest Ecology (SISEF).

Publications

IUFRO World Series 29: Asia and the Pacific Symposium Vulnerability Assessments to Natural and Anthropogenic Hazards

Editors: Antonio M. Daño, Karen Rae M. Fortus, Sim Heok-Choh. Extended Abstracts from the symposium held in Manila, Philippines, 7–10 December 2010, jointly organized by Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), in association with (IUFRO), Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). ISBN 978-3-902762-05-4. Soon available at: <http://www.iufro.org/publications/series/world-series/#c18479>



GFIS Newsletter

In order to better communicate with those interested in the field of forest information GFIS is now releasing a short publication from time-to-time to keep everyone up-to-date with the latest news regarding the Global Forest Information Service. First issue: <http://www.iufro.org/science/gfis/>

Proceedings

of the 11th International Symposium on Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development held in Zvolen, Slovakia, edited by Rastislav Sulek, Peter Herbst and Franz Schmithüsen. (IUFRO 6.13.00 Forest Law and Environmental Legislation). Published by the Technical University in Zvolen, Slovak Republic. ISBN 978-80-228-2210-7.

IUFRO Fact Sheet on Forest Governance

At the Forest Europe Ministerial 2011 Conference in Oslo from 14-16 June 2011, IUFRO successfully presented a fact sheet from the newly established IUFRO Task Force on International Forest Governance. Visit: <http://www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/intl-forest-governance/>

State of Europe's Forests 2011 launched at Forest Europe Ministerial Conference

(from a Forest Europe press release)

Europe has the most forest-rich region in the world. It represents 25% of our global forest resources. Europe's expanding forests have a huge potential to mitigate climate change. They provide the renewable materials wood and energy and foster a green economy. Sustainable forest management practices increasingly promote conservation of biodiversity. But, forests are also threatened by diseases and extreme weather conditions, such as storms, as well as fires.

These are the main results which derive from the report on the State of Europe's Forests 2011, which was launched on 14 June 2011 in Oslo, Norway. The launch took place on the occasion of the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe which convened until 16 June.

The overall aim of the presented State of Europe's Forests 2011 report is to provide decision makers and the broad public with up-to-date, comprehensive and fact-based information on the status and trends in forests and sustainable forest management in Europe in the period 1990-2010. The report has been jointly prepared by FOREST EUROPE, UNECE and FAO.

The State of Europe's Forests 2011 report and Summary for Policy Makers may be downloaded here:
<http://www.foresteuropa.org/Publications>

For more information about the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference Oslo 2011 visit:
<http://www.foresteuropa.org/conference2011>

Announcement

First IUFRO-FORNESSA Regional Congress: Forests and Trees Serving the People of Africa and the World

25 – 30 June 2012, Nairobi, Kenya

<http://fornis.net/content/first-iufro-fornessa-regional-congress>

The first IUFRO regional congress in Africa will be held in partnership with FORNESSA, the Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa, and is expected to bring together about 350 participants to deliberate on issues relevant to the conservation, sustainable management and utilization of forest and tree resources in the region.

The overall goal of the congress is to demonstrate how forest science is impacting on livelihoods, environmental management and development in Africa. The congress will highlight research that puts relevant information in the hands of forest communities, forest managers, policy makers, the private sector and civil society.

International Institutions Call for Increased Investments for the Arid Zone Forests

(CPF Press Release: <http://www.iufro.org/media/iyf11/>)

Over twenty-seven international, regional and sub-regional institutions and over 100 participants from around the world gathered in Dakar on 17 June 2011 for the observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification. Among the participants were members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), a mechanism comprising 14 global institutions and organizations dealing with forestry matters, which called for more, and urgent, investments to stem the growing degradation of natural resources, especially the forests in Africa's drylands.

Drylands make up 40% of the world's land area, cover more than 100 countries and are the basis for the livelihoods of 2 billion people. The world's largest concentration of mammals, and more than 50,000 known plant and 1,500 bird species, as well as the native habitats and wild relatives of the world's most widely consumed seeds are supported by these forests. But the long-term sustainability of the drylands forests is in jeopardy due to a shortage in the investments needed to scale up the sustainable forest management practices and to support policies to prevent and reverse land degradation in the drylands, the process commonly known as desertification. (...)

Given the importance of forests in arid and semiarid zones for rural development and environmental protection, their development is a pressing challenge for both researchers and decision makers. "Facing global climate changes that are foreseen for the present century, including reductions in the already limited rainfall and variations in its seasonal distribution, this challenge becomes even stronger," says Santiago Barros Asenjo, who coordinates a IUFRO Working Party on forest management in arid and semi-arid regions. (...)



Photo by Peter Tarasiewicz

Specific themes to be covered include:

Forests and Climate Change; Forests and Water; Forest Policy, Governance and Trade; Forest Biodiversity and Conservation; Agroforestry, Energy and Food Security

Submit your abstract before 15 November 2011 to:

Dr. Joe Cobbinah, [jacobbinah\(at\)csir-forig.org.gh](mailto:jcobbinah@csir-forig.org.gh),
[jacobbinah\(at\)yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jacobbinah@yahoo.co.uk); Fax +233 03220 60121

IUFRO Meetings

Search our [online calendar](#) for a full list of meetings!

Find non-IUFRO meetings on the IUFRO [Noticeboard](#)!

Also search for forest-related events in GFIS at:

<http://www.gfis.net>

7-9 September 2011

Novel Risks with Bark and Wood Boring Insects in Broadleaved and Conifer Forests

Sopron, Hungary

IUFRO [7.03.05](#)

Contact: Barbara J. Bentz, bbentz@fs.fed.us; Ferenc Lakatos, flakatos@emk.nyme.hu; Rudolf Wegensteiner, rudolf.wegensteiner@boku.ac.at

<http://www.nyme.hu/index.php/15993/?&L=5>

8-10 Sep 2011

2nd International Non-wood Forest Products Symposium

Isparta, Turkey

IUFRO [5.11.00](#)

Contact: Hüseyin Fakir, huseyinfakir@orman.sdu.edu.tr

<http://ormanweb.sdu.edu.tr/nonwood/>

14 Sep 2011

International Seminar on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation: "REDD+ Expectations and Experiences"

Copenhagen, Denmark

Organized by the Technical Advisory Service (TAS) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark together with IUFRO, and Forest & Landscape Denmark (FLD) of University of Copenhagen

Contact: Ida Theilade, idadat@life.ku.dk

http://red.life.ku.dk/sitecore/content/Inst/SI/English/outreach_publications/Conferences/REDD_expectations_experiences.aspx

14-16 Sep 2011

Animals, Man and Treescapes: The Interactions between Grazing Animals, People and Wooded Landscapes

Sheffield, United Kingdom

IUFRO [9.03.01](#)

Contact: Ian Rotherham, i.d.rotherham@shu.ac.uk

<http://www.ukeconet.co.uk/index.php/events/50-conferences/142-animal-man-a-treescapes-conference-sept-2011>

9-13 October 2011

44th International Symposium on Forestry Mechanisation – FORMEC 2011: Pushing the Boundaries with Research and Innovation in Forest Engineering

Graz, Austria

IUFRO [3.06.00](#)

Contact: Karl Stampfer, stampfer@boku.ac.at;

Raffaele Cavalli, raffaele.cavalli@unipd.it;

Martin Kühmaier, formec2011@boku.ac.at

<http://formec.boku.ac.at/home.html>

18 and 20 October 2011

3rd Workshop on Forestry Education in Latin America (III Taller sobre Educación Forestal en Latinoamérica),

in the framework of the

5th Latin American Forestry Congress (V Congreso Forestal Latinoamericano) from 18-21 October

Lima, Peru

Latin American Network for Forestry Education (RELAFOR) in cooperation with the

IUFRO [Task Force on Education in Forest Science](#).

Contact: Osvaldo Encinas, oencinas@ula.ve ;

relafor@gmail.com

<http://www.relafor.net> ;

<http://www.cnf.org.pe/vconflat/informaciongen.html>

26-28 October 2011

VIII Congreso Latinoamericano de Derecho Forestal-Ambiental "Bosques, Gobernanza y Derecho Forestal"

San José, Costa Rica

IUFRO [9.06.01](#)

Contact: Lucia Ruiz, lruiz@cima.org.pe ;

Vivian Wylins, congresoforestalcr@abogados.or.cr

http://web.catie.ac.cr/congreso_forestal/derecho_home.htm

6-11 Nov 2011

The Future Role of Bio-Energy from Tree Biomass in Europe

Vienna, Austria

COST-ESF High-level Research Conference;

IUFRO [Task Force on Forest Bioenergy](#), BFW (Austria)

Contact: Rolf Björheden, Rolf.Bjorheden@skogforsk.se

<http://www.esf.org/index.php?id=8196>

15-18 November 2011

Research Priorities in Tropical Silviculture: Towards New Paradigms?

Montpellier, France

IUFRO [1.02.00](#), [8.02.00](#)

Contact: Plinio Sist, plinio.sist@cirad.fr

<http://www.iufro2011-tropical-silviculture.org/>

21-24 May 2012

Tackling Climate Change: The Contribution of Forest Scientific Knowledge

Tours, France

IUFRO [4.01.04](#)

Contact: Heinrich Spiecker, instww@uni-freiburg.de

<http://www.gjp-ecofor.org/tours2012/>

25-30 Jun 2012

First IUFRO-FORNESSA Regional Congress: Forests and Trees Serving the People of Africa and the World

Nairobi, Kenya

Contact: Joe Cobbinah, [jacobbinah@csir-forig.org.gh](mailto:jcobbinah@csir-forig.org.gh),

jacobbinah@yahoo.co.uk

<http://fornis.net/content/first-iufro-fornessa-regional-congress>

8-13 July 2012

2012 IUFRO All-Division 5 Conference

Estoril, Portugal

IUFRO [5.00.00](#)

Contact: Pekka Saranpää, Pekka.Saranpaa@metla.fi

<http://www.iufro2012.org/>