

## THE ONLINE INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE GLOBAL FOREST SCIENCE NETWORK

### Acacia 2014 - Sustaining the Future of Acacia Plantation Forestry

Report by Rod Griffin, Griffin Tree Improvement Pty. Ltd., Coordinator of [IUFRO Working Party 2.08.07](#)

The **Acacia 2014** meeting held on 18-21 March 2014 in Hue City, Vietnam, was a joint conference of the recently formed IUFRO Working Party WP 2.08.07 on Acacia Genetics and Silviculture, WP 1.02.06 on Ecology and Silviculture of Acacia and WP 2.04.01 on Population, Ecological and Conservation Genetics and was hosted by the Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS). The meeting drew a total of 182 participants representing 22 countries.

#### Background

Plantations of Australian Acacias have expanded rapidly in the past three decades and there are now about 3M ha planted worldwide. The most significant areas are of tropical acacias in SE Asia where *A. mangium*, its hybrid with *A. auriculiformis* and *A. crassicaarpa* are the main taxa. In Vietnam over 1M ha of acacia plantations supply a burgeoning furniture manufacturing industry as well as the export woodchip market.

Recognizing the evident need for an international forum for consideration of the science underpinning this industry, IUFRO WP 2.08.07 Genetics and Silviculture of Acacia was formed and Vietnam selected for the inaugural Conference. While the main focus of the WP is likely to remain on tropical acacias, scientists concerned with temperate taxa such as *A. mearnsii* and *A. melanoxylon* are welcome to join.

The meeting was organized around three themes and a new forum format for discussion of science for management applications and policy decisions was tested:

#### Plantation Management for Sustainable Wood Production

Plantation sites are at their most vulnerable from the start of the harvest to canopy closure of the next rotation. Managing for an appropriate balance between harvesting efficiency and long term productivity is therefore critical. Furthermore, maintaining stocking is one of the keys to maintaining productivity.

The paths towards the practical adoption of increasing technical knowledge by smallholder farmers are still unclear and here input from social scientists should be sought. The opportunities for producing combined solid wood/pulpwood crops are increasing but it needs to be ensured that the added value is shared fairly with the growers.



Harvesting logs of 8 year old Acacia hybrid for solid wood and pulp in Vietnam (Photo by Chris Harwood, CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences and CSIRO Sustainable Agriculture Flagship)

#### Risk Evaluation and Management

Diseases and pests present ongoing and ever evolving challenges for plantation growers. Organisms discussed at the conference included *Ceratocystis* wilt, Ganoderma and Phytophthora root rots, leaf and shoot rusts and defoliating insects.

A cumulative increase in pests and disease problems of acacia species can be expected in the future. A sound understanding of basic science, epidemiology and ecology of every target organism is critical for a successful management.

Genetic solutions, including long term genomics applications, will be appropriate in many cases and closer collaborations are needed between breeders and pathologists/entomologists. Effective pest and disease control measures need to be applied not only to industrial plantations but to those of small growers who are unable to finance the required R&D.

Acacias produce copious amounts of long lived seed, and can present a potential weediness problem and impact on biodiversity in certain environments. Growers may need to consider procedures for managing these potential impacts which vary around the world and are not considered a current problem in SE Asia.

### Genetics and Breeding

The maintenance and expansion of genetic diversity in breeding populations requires attention. The issue of cross-contamination of breeding populations is emerging for *A. mangium* and *A. auriculiformis* in countries where the two species and their hybrid are grown together.

The emergence of serious disease threats to acacia plantations represents the most important challenge that breeders must address in collaboration with pathologists and entomologists.

There are immediate applications for molecular markers as breeding tools. Substantial work on genomics and gene action of acacias is now underway but routes to operational application are still to be determined.

### Forest Industry Forum on: Science for management applications and policy decisions

This initiative fostered discussion between panelists representing government, industry and research organizations in Vietnam.

*The following key messages were delivered:*

*There is a need for implementing policies which promote investment in processing and reduce dependence on the chip export market.*

*It is essential to achieve potential rates of production from plantations thus supporting increased processing capacity, and reducing the dependence on import of logs.*

*There is a need for a coherent policy approach to monitor and quarantine diseases.*

*While there have been some examples of successful technology transfer, the need for a more planned and systematic effort needs to be emphasized in particular for small growers.*

The key conclusion is that there are many unresolved technical issues with acacia plantation forestry and there is a need for a more integrated and inter-disciplinary approach to defining management systems which deliver sustainable and profitable plantation productivity. The importance of improved interaction with growers both large and small was also emphasized, together with appropriate policy settings. Research *per se* is necessary but not sufficient.

### Outlook to future activities

The conference proceedings can be found at: <http://iufroacacia2014.com.vn/conference-proceedings>. Key papers will be published in a Special Issue of the journal Southern Forests (Vol1 2015). The WP resolved to meet again in 2017 with Indonesia hosting.

## Forest Economics: Gateway to Sustainability

Report by Shashi Kant, University of Toronto, Coordinator of IUFRO Research Group 9.04.00

The 2014 Symposium of the International Society of Forest Resource Economics entitled "Forest Economics – Gateway to Sustainability", was held in St Louis, MO, USA, 16-18 March 2014. The 2014 ISFRE Symposium was supported by IUFRO Research Group 9.04.00 (Forest Resource Economics) and was an official IUFRO event.

About 70 attendants discussed various forest economics issues including how economics can be used to inform decision makers on issues regarding carbon emissions and sequestration by forests, adapting forest management to a changing climate, global trade of wood products and impacts on local environment and job markets, among others.

The participants emphasized that economic models should incorporate rational optimization to allow for better modeling of long term supply of wood products. Economic analyses should be based on comprehensive environmental assessments. Such is the case of accounting for carbon emissions from forests and managements so that consequences to particular uses can be linked to specific carbon budgets.



With the effects of a changing climate, droughts and extreme weather are occurring at a greater frequency. Models that better estimate the likelihood and risks associated to events such as wildfire are needed to advice management decisions, help in planning, and guide public budgets. Economics has a key role to play informing a growing population on the use and conservation of limited forest resources.

### Workshop 'Forests and Water: From Research to Application'

The workshop held from 24-26 March 2014 in Kunming, China, was organized by FAO, the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) of CGIAR, and IUFRO with the aim to exchange views on a possible agenda to address the future course of international action on forests and water. <http://forests-l.iisd.org/news/forest-europe-reports-on-forest-and-water-meeting/>

## Announcements

### T20Q for Forestry and Landscapes

T20Q - top twenty questions for forestry and landscapes is a project within the broader Evidence-Based Forestry (EBF) initiative, led by CIFOR and its partners, including IUFRO. From May to October 2014 ideas will be collected in a variety of ways, including workshops, online surveys and social media: <http://forestryevidence.com/t20q/>

### Alien Forest Pest Explorer (AFPE)

A product of the USDA Forest Service, the AFPE is a web mapping application providing distributional and biological information for 75 non-native forest insects and 15 pathogens in the United States. For more information, go to the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station website located at: <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/tools/afpe/>

### Position Announcements

Find all position announcements and much more at the [IUFRO Noticeboard!](#)

### Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in Social-Ecological Systems

The Department of Forest Resources Management in the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver, Canada [invites applications](#) by 15 May 2014.

### Senior Research Fellow Positions

Nordregio, the Nordic Centre for Spatial Development, based in Stockholm, Sweden, conducts strategic research in the broad field of regional studies. The deadline for application is 30 May 2014. For further information, visit the Positions sections on the [IUFRO Noticeboard](#) or contact Kjell Nilsson, Director of Nordregio, at: [kjell.nilsson@nordregio.se](mailto:kjell.nilsson@nordregio.se)

### Full-time Assistant Professor or above in Bio-material or Functional Material

Department of Forestry, National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan, China-Taipei  
Please write to Professor Kun-Tsung Lu at [lukt@dragon.nchu.edu.tw](mailto:lukt@dragon.nchu.edu.tw) for further information or visit the Positions section of the [IUFRO Noticeboard](#).  
Deadline for application: 1 June 2014

### Professor/Associate Professor in Urban/Peri-urban Green Space Management

The Department of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning of the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) [invites applications](#) by 1 June 2014.



## IUFRO 2014 Congress Latest News

**Early bird registration deadline extended to May 7!**  
All presenters must be registered by this date!  
<http://iufro2014.com/registration/rates-policies-tips/>

 **Follow @IUFRO2014 on Twitter:**  
<https://twitter.com/iufro2014>

 **Join IUFRO2014 on Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/iufro2014>

**Read the latest IUFRO 2014 Congress Spotlight** on adaptation of forest management to climate change and other news at: <http://iufro2014.com/news/>

## Awards

### Wangari Maathai Award 2014 – Call for Nominations

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is awarding one extraordinary individual USD20,000 for improving our forests and the lives of people who depend on them! Applicants should be nominated by a third party. Nominees may be persons, living or recently deceased, who have made exceptional contributions to forests.

The closing date for receipt of nominations is **Friday, 30 May 2014**. The awardee will be selected by a jury nominated by CPF members, which will take into account gender and regional balance when considering potential awardees. Please send completed nominations to the CPF Secretariat at [cpf@un.org](mailto:cpf@un.org).  
Visit <http://www.cpfweb.org/77034/en/> for details.

**This year's Wangari Maathai Award will be presented on 6 October 2014, the first day of the 24th IUFRO World Congress in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.**

### BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards

The BBVA Foundation promotes scientific research of excellence. The awards honor fundamental disciplinary or supradisciplinary advances in a series of basic natural, social and technological sciences. The call is open and nominations process will conclude at the end of June. For details, please write to [awards-info@fbbva.es](mailto:awards-info@fbbva.es) or go to <http://www.fbbva.es/awards>.

### 2014 Marcus Wallenberg Prize

Magnus Berggren, professor of organic electronics at Linköping University, Sweden, is the winner of the 2014 Marcus Wallenberg Prize, for his ground-breaking work on electronic paper. Professor Berggren won the award for his fundamental scientific breakthrough, which has led to applications that can be industrially manufactured and that, according to the jury, open the door to a completely new market for forest products. Further reading at: <https://www.liu.se/liu-nytt/arkiv/nyhetsarkiv/1.558250?l=en>

## Publications

### Proceedings

ISTS-IUFRO Conference on Sustainable Resource Management for Climate Change Mitigation and Social Security, held on 13-15 March 2014, in Chandigarh, India IUFRO 1.03.00. [Book of Abstracts](#)

### Call for Papers: Environmental Conservation Themed Issue on Forests and Food Security

The aim of this thematic issue is to provide a forum for research that explores the different ways in which forests and agroforestry systems can be managed as food provisioning systems, in addition to their existing contributions to the conservation landscape.

Potential audiences for this contribution include scholars and policy makers working in forest and related sectors, as well as those working in the areas of food and nutrition security both locally and internationally. Priority for the special issue will be given to empirical papers, but theoretical work that crosses conventional disciplinary boundaries will also be considered.

*Managing Editor: Bhaskar Vira, University of Cambridge, UK, <bv101(at)cam.ac.uk>*

Instructions for Authors: <http://tiny.cc/iv6kg>

Manuscript submission deadline: 31 January 2015, Publication of themed issue: late 2015 (provisional)

### Unlocking the potential for synergies between FLEGT and REDD+

The great potential for synergies between FLEGT and REDD+ has yet to be achieved in practice. This is the conclusion of the recently published EFRN News "Linking FLEGT and REDD+ to Improve Forest Governance". The publication presents 22 experiences and viewpoints from around the world about the linkages between FLEGT, REDD+ and other international forest management initiatives.

Download the EFRN News "Linking FLEGT and REDD+ to Improve Forest Governance" from:

<http://www.etfrn.org/publications/linking+flegt+and+redd%2b+to+improve+forest+governance>

### Forest Information Billboard

The first issue in 2014 has been published at: <http://www.unece.org/forests-welcome/about-us/forest-information-billboard/issue-1-2014.html>

## International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)

**First Issue of [IFSA News](#) in 2014 just released!**

### New energy in IFSA: from Europe to Asia-Pacific

*By Yi-Chen Lin, School of Forestry and Resource Conservation, National Taiwan University*

As trees continue to sprout, IFSA will extend their roots to the world. In the General Assembly of the 41st International Forestry Students' Symposium held in Spain last August, the decision had been made that the regions of Asia and Oceania would merge into a whole new region: Asia Pacific, done so to showcase the robust growth of the Far East. Since then, swift growth of local committees in the Asia Pacific region has indicated the success of IFSA's promotion to establish a platform to share great opportunities with young forestry students around the world.

From last October to the present, the Asia Pacific region sprouted four new leaves, or local committees, including National Chung Hsing University, National Chiayi University, both from China-Taipei, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University from India and Daegu University from Republic of Korea. This tremendous appearance of local committees within a short period

reveals the awareness of and emphasis on forest issue among young forest students in the Asia Pacific region.

"Think globally, act locally" represents the true spirit of young foresters in Asia Pacific, and they will seize any opportunity to show their passion to forestry, or our planet, which can be seen in large forestry events held in the Asia Pacific region. In 2010, the IUFRO World Congress was held in South Korea, and one year later, Asia-Pacific forest week started in Beijing.

Most important of all, next year, IFSA's 43rd International Forestry Students' Symposium will be held in the Philippines.



*Participants of IFSA local committee winter meeting jointly hosted by the newly established LCs in Asia Pacific, National Chung Hsing University and National Chiayi University, China-Taipei. (Photo taken by Bob Chang)*

Referring to the aforementioned forestry events, we can see that Asia Pacific is an extremely active region and ready to push IFSA forward to gain more awareness in forestry fields.

IFSA, like a big tree, successfully extends its roots to the Asia Pacific region and, symbiotically, the local committees in Asia Pacific will nourish this big tree, instilling new energy to IFSA in the near future.

## 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>



26-27 May 2014

**Project Formulation Workshop: Sustainable Management and Genetic Conservation of Teak Resources** (on invitation only)

Bangkok, Premises of RSPG, Thailand

IUFRO [5.06.02](#), RSPG, FAO, Teaknet

**Contact:** P.K. Thulasidas, coordinator(at)teaknet.org

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-5/50000/50600/50602/activities/>

16-17 Jul 2014

**Second Global Forum of Ecological Economics in Forestry (GFEEF) - "Building a Harmony between Ecology and Economy"**

Nanjing, China

IUFRO [9.04.03](#)

**Contact:** Zuomin Wen, zmwen(at)njfu.edu.cn

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-9/90000/90400/90403/activities/>

9-12 Sep 2014

**Plant Production Integrating Genetic and Vegetative Propagation Technologies**

Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

IUFRO [2.09.02](#)

**Contact:** Yill-Sung Park, ypark(at)nrcan.gc.ca

Paloma Moncalean, pmoncalean(at)neiker.net

<http://www.iufro20902.org/>

10 Sep 2014

**International workshop on "Soil Degradation Risks in European Planted Forests"**

Bilbao (European Forest City 2014), Spain

IUFRO [8.01.03](#)

**Contact:** Jean-Michel Carnus,

Jean-Michel.Carnus(at)pierroton.inra.fr

basozaintza(at)neiker.net

<http://www.efiatlantic.efi.int>

15-17 Sep 2014

**RegioResources 21-2014**

Katowice, Poland

IUFRO [8.01.02](#)

**Contact:** Christine Fürst, cfuerst(at)uni-bonn.de

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-8/80000/80100/80102/activities/>

16-18 Sep 2014

**Global Change Research Symposium - Evidence and Application**

Ostuni, Brindisi, Italy

IUFRO [8.01.02](#)

**Contact:** Raffaele Laforteza, r.laforteza(at)agr.uniba.it

<http://www.global2014.it/>

26-28 Nov 2014

**Natural Resources, Green Technology, and Sustainable Development**

Zagreb, Croatia

IUFRO [9.00.00](#)

Organized by Croatian Forest Research Institute and others

**Contact:** Igor Kolar, igork(at)sumins.hr

<http://www.sumins.hr:8080/GREEN2014/>

12 Jun 2015

**5.10.00 RG Meeting: "Forest Products and Communities" at the 58th International Convention of the Society of Wood Science & Technology**

Jackson Lake Lodge, Wyoming, United States

IUFRO [5.10.00](#)

**Contact:** Eric N. Hansen, eric.hansen2(at)oregonstate.edu

<http://swst.org/meetings/AM15/index.html>

## Other Meetings

5-6 May 2014

**Forest Asia Summit**

Jakarta, Indonesia

CIFOR and others

**Contact:** Adinda Hasan, a.hasana(at)cgiar.org

<http://www.cifor.org/forestsasia/about/summit/>

22-23 May 2014

**Workshop of the Silva Mediterranea Working Group on Urban and Peri-urban Forestry**

Granada, Spain

**Contact:** Fabio Salbitano, fabio.salbitano(at)unifi.it

23-27 Jun 2014

**World Forest Week - 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)**

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/57758/en/>

11-15 Aug 2014

**The 5th Biennial Conference of the International Association for Ecology and Health**

Montréal, Canada

IAEH, <http://www.ecohealth2014.uqam.ca>

3-13 Sep 2014

**ALTER-Net Summer School, An Interdisciplinary Perspective on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service**

Peyresq, France

<http://www.alter-net.info/jobs-oppo/opportunities/opp-alter-net-summer-school-2014>

10-12 Sep 2014

**2014 Annual Conference and the Seminar "Future of Bioeconomy in Europe"**

Bilbao (European Forest City 2014), Spain

EFI and others, [http://www.efi.int/portal/members/annual\\_conferences/2014/](http://www.efi.int/portal/members/annual_conferences/2014/)

29-30 Sep 2014

**Climate Change: Scenarios, Impacts and Policy**

Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

Italian Society for Climate Sciences

<http://www.sisclima.it/conference2014>

18-21 Nov 2014

**72nd Session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI)**

Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia

**Contact:** Paola Deda, paola.deda(at)unece.org

<http://www.unece.org/forests/kazan2014.html>

27 Jun-1 Jul 2015

**X World Bamboo Congress - "Bamboo for a Greener Future"**

Damyang, South Korea

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

7-11 Sep 2015

**XIV World Forestry Congress**

Durban, South Africa

FAO, **contact:** WFC-XIV-Info(at)fao.org

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/wfc/en/>