

Planted Forests Constitute Strategic but Vulnerable Resources for Future Green Economies

Report from the 3rd International Congress on Planted Forests
15-21 May 2013 – Bordeaux (Fr), Dublin (Ir), Porto and Estoril (Port)

Congress Report: http://www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/past_events/2013/icpf/

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The 3rd International Congress on Planted Forests was held from 15 to 21 May 2013 in Atlantic Europe and comprised one plenary meeting of international experts in Estoril (Portugal) preceded by three parallel scientific workshops sponsored by several IUFRO divisions (4, 7, 8 and 9) on:

Vulnerability and Risk Management (Bordeaux, France)

Ecosystem Services (Dublin, Ireland)

Governance, Economics, Trade and Markets (Porto, Portugal)

Those events aimed at investigating the contribution of planted forests to sustainable development in the context of global changes and the future role of planted forests in environmental protection and REDD, especially in developing countries. The plenary meeting in Estoril was opened by Ms. Assunção Cristas, Portuguese Minister of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning, Mr. François Moreau from the French Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as well as Mr. Eduardo Mansur, director at FAO and Mr. Niels Elers Koch, the president of IUFRO. Two hundred participants from 38 countries in five continents attended the workshops and plenary session representing national and regional governments, the private sector, research institutes, international and non-governmental organizations.



More than 90 invited papers from 30 countries, scientific workshops reports and 3 high-level panel discussions which addressed a set of questions related to the conference themes of poverty alleviation, ecosystem services and sustainable production, formed the basis of deliberations that led to the formulation of a congress report by a drafting committee of international experts. The congress report to be released by FAO is expected to be integrated into broader policy dialogues on the future of planted forests at the global, regional and national levels.

Key conclusions

Some of the key conclusions from the congress highlighted:

the strategic importance of planted forests for providing future renewable wood resources;

the role that planted forests and trees play in restoration of degraded landscapes, provision of ecosystem services and support of sustainable livelihoods, with the need to strengthen evidence-based research on those topics;

the replacement of large-scale monospecific plantations by more ecological and integrated management approaches at stand and landscape levels;

the importance of good governance of rural areas, and of financial incentive schemes as crucial legal, institutional and economic preconditions for establishment and long term management of planted forests;

the need to support countries to further understand the role that planted forests play in the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change and assist them in monitoring their performance;

the increased vulnerability of planted forests to biotic and abiotic hazards and the integration of multiple risks in their sustainable management; and the need to enhance communication and knowledge transfer and to strengthen research and development capacities.