

Research and Development of Decision Support Systems for Sustainable Forest Management and Policy Advice

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The 2013 Decision Support System Workshop and ForestDSS Community of Practice reported the state-of-the-art on the development and use of decision support systems (DSS) to enhance forest management planning and forest policy analysis. It targeted further the transfer of knowledge and technology to DSS end-users. Through seminars the participants were exposed to the interdisciplinary nature of developing DSS. Computer labs were instrumental for the demonstration of the use of DSS.

Workshop website: <http://www.2013forestdss.chil.org/>

Its program encompassed one seminar with presentations focusing on hot topics such as:

- a) Architecture and implementation
- b) Models and methods
- c) Knowledge management techniques in DSS
- d) The participatory processes to be supported by DSS
- e) The innovative dissemination of DSS descriptions, case-studies and lessons learned by a Wiki semantic structure.



Workshop participants. Photo by Henrique São Martinho.

A major part of the workshop was devoted to computer labs to demonstrate the potential of DSS to increase the efficiency and the effectiveness of forest management planning and to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology. The opportunity for hands-on experience was much appreciated by the participating forest stakeholders and was deemed as influential to the success of outreach efforts and to the wider dissemination and use of

DSS to improve management and to enhance forest policy analysis.

An Approach to DSS Knowledge and Technology Transfer

The ForestDSS 2013 Workshop on Decision Support Systems and the first physical meeting of the ForestDSS Community of Practice took place on December 4-6, 2013 in Lisbon, Portugal. It was sponsored by IUFRO Unit 4.04.04, by the Forest Research Centre and the Association for Innovation and Enterprise Incubation (INOVISA) of the School of Agriculture of the University of Lisbon (ISA/UL), by the Erasmus Mundus Master Course MEDfOR (Mediterranean Forestry and Natural Resources Management Planning) and by the Community of Practice on Forest Decision Support Systems. It involved participants from Europe, Africa, America and Asia.

The Community of Practice on Forest Decision Support Systems

The ongoing research and development in evaluating tools for supporting forest management and policy analysis processes will be supported by the Community of Practice on Forest Decision Support Systems – ForestDSS CoP (<http://www.forestdss.org>). At the meeting in Lisbon it was possible to agree on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the modalities and organization of the work within the ForestDSS CoP. In this context a session to further disseminate this work at the [IUFRO 2014 World Congress](#) (Decision Support for providing Ecosystem Services - Community of Practice of Forest Decision Support Systems) was launched by IUFRO Units [4.02.07](#), [4.03.03](#) and [4.04.04](#).