

Managing Forests for Climate Change

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Three more or less related issues, which make political headlines, are stimulating renewed interest in the science known as Forest Management:

The first issue deals with the impacts of forest management on carbon budgets; the second one is concerned with forests as a source of renewable energy, concentrating on production potentials and sustainable use. The third major issue deals with the possible implications of expected climate change on forest management, with particular emphasis on tree species selection.



Participants gathering during the field day

From 3 to 7 April 2006, IUFRO Division 4 held a meeting on climate change and forestry in Palencia, Spain. The focus of the meeting was placed on the management of carbon sequestration in forests and the adaptation of forests to climate change. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Felipe Bravo Oviedo, Director of the Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingenierías Agrarias, at the University of Valladolid, Spain.

Forests play a significant role in the climate system. They are important carbon sinks and sources, and the assessment of their carbon budgets has received much attention in recent years. Losses or gains of carbon may be due to afforestation, reforestation or deforestation. These activities are explicitly included in Article 3.3 of the Kyoto Protocol as "accountable activities" in the national commitments to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions.

In contrast, "additional human-induced activities" related to forest management of existing forests in Article 3.4 of the Kyoto Protocol are less obvious with respect to their impact on the global carbon budget. Accordingly, the meeting was devoted to research in monitoring and modelling of carbon sequestration and the potential of managed forests to adapt to climate change. The contributions included papers on Monitoring and Modelling, Economics and Management, and a number of case studies, mainly from North America, South America and Europe.

Proceedings:

*Bravo Oviedo, F. (Ed.) 2006. Proceedings of the IUFRO Division 4 International Meeting "Managing Forest Ecosystems: the Challenges of Climate Change". Ed. cuatroelementos, Valladolid.
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[Meeting report](#)