**The 4th International Forum**

**on Forest Policy and Economics**

*Sustainable forestry development and policy change in response to climate change*

*18th -20th October, 2024, Beijing*

***Title:***

The 4th International Forum on Forest Policy and Economics: Sustainable forestry development and policy change in response to climate change

***Hosted by******:***

Beijing Forestry University

International Union of Forest Research Organizations

***Organized by:***

School of Economics and Management, Beijing Forestry University

9.04.00 IUFRO - Forest resource economics

***Co- Organized/Sponsored by:***

International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR)

Forestry Development Research Center (FEDRC)，National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA)

China Association of Forestry Economics

Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information (RIFPI)，Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)

**1. Background**

There are nearly 4 billion hectares of forests in the world, accounting for 30% of the world's area. Forests are essential for human well-being, sustainable development and global health. Approximately 1.6 billion people worldwide depend on forests for food, livelihoods, employment and income (USDA, 2021). At the same time, forests are the largest ecosystems on land, providing habitat for 80% of amphibians, 75% of birds, and 68% of mammal species (FAO, 2020). In addition, forests are an important part of the solution to climate change. Forests, as the largest carbon reservoir after the ocean, absorb and store about 30% of current carbon emissions from fossil fuels (FAO, 2020). Forest regeneration has the potential to absorb up to 8.9 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere annually by 2050 (GFW, 2020). The critical role of forests in promoting sustainable development and addressing climate change has been recognized at the global level. However, global deforestation and forest degradation continue to occur due to the demand for wood, food, fuel, fibre and urbanization. At the same time, climate change is also bringing increasingly severe challenges to the health of forest ecosystems. How to promote forests to play a better supporting role in promoting green and low-carbon economic development, coping with climate change, improving biodiversity conservation, and improving community livelihoods through forestry economic policy reform have been widely discussed in various countries.

Forests play an important role in China's sustainable economic, environmental and social development. According to the Ninth National Forest Resources Inventory (2014-2018), China's forest area reached 220.44 million hectares ranking fifth in the world with a forest coverage rate of 22.96%. With the implementation of the national ecological civilization strategy, the value of forests has been redefined. From "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets", to "comprehensive management of forests, fields, lakes and grasses", to "the construction of a beautiful China", forests play an important role in the practice of ecological civilization and have become an indispensable part of China's promotion of green and sustainable development. In September 2020, Premier Xi Jinping announced that China would peak carbon dioxide by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, with forests contributing to the goal of carbon neutrality by adapting, mitigating and becoming an important part of the solution. China's forestry sector has actively explored the policies and practices of contribution and sustainable development and addressing climate change, and has achieved good results.

The global forestry development model and policy framework has undergone significant changes over the past 50 years, and there is a need for systematic review and reflection, and discussion on medium- and long-term forestry development models and policy changes towards 2035 and 2050 in a global and Chinese context to support the achievement of increasingly urgent global and national sustainable development and climate change goals.

In order to promote the discussion of forestry economic policy changes in response to climate change and sustainable development, and share ideas and practices at the world, regional and national levels, especially on key issues such as forests and climate change, forests and biodiversity (protected areas), value realization of forest ecological products, forests and markets, and the development of new quality productivity in forestry, Beijing Forestry University and Division 9 of International Union of Forest Research Organizations, through organizing by the School of Economics and Management of Beijing Forestry University, jointly collaborate with International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR),Forestry Development Research Center (FEDRC)，National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), China Association of Forestry Economics, Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information (RIFPI)，Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) will organize the “The 4th International Forum on Forestry Policy and Economy: Forestry Economic Policy Reform in Response to Climate Change and Sustainable Development “ on October 18-20, 2024 in Beijing. The conference will invite domestic and international forestry experts and scholars to discuss the priority areas of research cooperation in the next step.

**2. Forum topics and objectives**

The theme of the forum focuses on the hot spots and key issues in the current domestic and international forestry economic policy changes in response to climate change and sustainable development. Based on global, regional and national practices and experiences, the Forum will hold thematic discussions on issues such as forests and climate change, forests and biodiversity (protected areas), value realization of forests and ecological products, and forests and markets, explore and analyze key issues and solutions, and discuss priority areas for further research cooperation.

**Topics discussed at the forum include:**

* Forests and climate change in the global and Chinese context of carbon neutrality: practices, policies and challenges;
* International and national practices and policies on forests in advancing the SDGs;
* International and national practices and policies in forest ecological efficiency and biodiversity conservation practices and policies of forests and biodiversity (protected areas) in the context of marketization of forest ecological benefits, Payment of ecological services (PES), the policy, model and cases；
* Market mechanisms for forestry development, including green finance, biodiversity finance, forestry investment and trade in forest products；
* The role forest sector can plan to promote new quality productivity；
* Digital economy, big data and the development of smart forestry industry.

**Objectives of the Forum:**

* Discuss the current hot topics in the forestry development model and policy reform to address climate change and promote sustainable development, including forests and climate change, forests and sustainable development, forests and biodiversity conservation, forest and ecological product value realization, forests and markets, and forestry and new quality productivity ;
* Discuss and summarize lessons learned from global forestry development and policy, as well as China's role and solutions;
* Explore and summarize potential areas of research collaboration.

**3. Call for Oral Report**

The conference called for oral presentations in the following areas. 25 minutes per oral speaker.

* Forests and climate change (including but not limited to: adaptation, mitigation of forest practices and policies to address climate change);
* Forests and sustainable development (including but not limited to: forest practices and policies in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals)
* Forest and biodiversity conservation (including but not limited to: practices and policies for biodiversity conservation in forest ecosystems, protected areas, and national park management, protection and policies);
* Value realization of forest and ecological products (including but not limited to: practices and policies for value realization of forest ecological products);
* Forests and Markets (including but not limited to: green finance, biodiversity finance, forestry investment, practices and policies for forest products trade)；
* New quality productivity and high-quality development of forestry (including but not limited to: paths, means and policies for the development of new quality productivity in forestry)；
* Digital economy, big data and the development of smart forestry industry(Including but not limited to: forestry digital economy and big data development means and policies, intelligent forestry industry models and policies).

The deadline for oral presentations application is 25th September, 2024, and the Academic Committee of the conference will review all applications by 30th September, 2024 and notify the submitter of the outcome by email. Applicants are requested to fill in the following form and send it to the mailbox of the conference affairs group before 25th September, 2024:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Organization and position  | Oral report title and abstract with in 200 words. (English) | Contact Information  |
| Email | Phone |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**4. Time and venue**

**Time** :The Forum will be held in Beijing on 18th -20th October 2024

**Place**: Beijing Forestry University

**5. The Draft agenda of the Forum**

The detailed agenda will be shared soon.

**6. Participants**

International and domestic participants from academic institution are welcomed. The workshop is free for all participants.

**7. Contact:**

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