

## Expert Workshop on Restoration and Adaptation of Mountain Forests in Central and Northeast Asia

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This three-day event was organized as an expert workshop in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 20-22 October 2015. It brought together 50 registered participants from 8 countries and was co-sponsored by IUFRO Units 1.06.00 Restoration of Degraded Sites, 1.01.05 Mountain Forest Management, & the Task Force on Forest Adaptation and Restoration under Global Change. Participants included international researchers, managers, and students. The meeting was hosted by the Forest Research Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic, and supported by the US Forest Service Southern Research Station and the Korea Forest Research Institute/Korea Forest Service.

Four invited keynote speakers provided overviews and broad perspectives that set the stage for specific reports on status of mountain forests and restoration and adaptation research. Keynote speakers included the following:

*Chadwick D. Oliver* (Yale University, USA, gave a talk entitled: *Landscape management in mountainous areas: Global commonalities, issues, and opportunities;*

*Emile Gardiner* (Center for Bottomland Hardwood Research, US Forest Service, USA) University of discussed: *Artificial regeneration of degraded broadleaf forests;*

*Andreas Bolte* (Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute of Forest Ecosystems, Germany and Coordinator, IUFRO Task Force on Forest Adaptation and Restoration under Global Change) was unable to attend but provided a presentation on IUFRO Task Force forest adaptation and restoration under global change—Start of a global network; and

*John Stanturf* (Center for Forest Disturbance Science, US Forest Service) spoke about *Restoration and adaptation to climate change.*

The participants were encouraged to think about the benefits of collaboration by a video message on *Lessons Learned from the ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project*. Welcomes were provided by the President of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic, Prof. Abdygany Erkebaev and the head of the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, Sabyr Atadjanov and other dignitaries. Valuable information and insights about mountain forests in Central and Northeast Asia were shared by speakers who gave a total of 24 presentations. Multiple speakers described conditions in the host country and others described conditions, challenges, and opportunities in Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Russia. Ismail Belen, FAO, President of the Committee of Mediterranean Forestry Questions (Silva –Med), provided *Some examples of recent international developments on forestry and mountains*. Prof. Dietrich Smidt-Vogt, Director of the Mountain Societies Research Institute, discussed *Mountain forests—Lessons learned from Southeast Asia*. Niels Thiev, World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), discussed *Agroforestry for climate change adaptation in Central Asia*.

The field trip featured a visit to the Frunze Forestry Leshkoz headquarters and nursery, followed by meeting a private nurseryman. Private landowners grow seedlings and sell them to the Forestry Department who arrange for marketing and provide quality seed. The trip to the Ala-Archa National Park capped off the day, stopping at the park museum and hiking in the first snowfall of the season. The Ala-Archa Park was created in 1976 to protect endangered animals and plants including the Red Listed Snow Leopard. Situated in the Ala-Too Mountains of the Kyrgyz Range, the park is 30 km south of the city of Bishkek and a popular mountaineering destination. A book of abstracts, in Russian and English, is available the units' websites.

IUFRO RG 1.06.00 <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-1/10000/10600/>

IUFRO WP 1.01.05 <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-1/10000/10100/10105/>

IUFRO TF <http://www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/forest-adaptation-restoration/>