

## Forest Day: Forests Essential for Meeting People's Needs and Tackling Climate Change

*UN Press Release on the International Day of Forests*

New York, 21 March — The sustainable management and conservation of forests must be considered in the design and implementation of the new sustainable development goals and the new climate change agreement to be adopted this December in Paris, according to UN officials and forest experts in messages for the International Day of Forests, observed on 21 March.

At least 1.6 billion people directly depend on forests for food, fuel, shelter and income, but everyone benefits from the clean air, water, and climate regulation that forests provide. Three fourths of freshwater, crucial for human survival, comes from forested catchments. Healthy forests are critical for building resilience—the ability to bounce back from storms and other natural disasters. Mangrove forests, when left intact, reduce loss of life and damage caused by tsunamis.

With a focus on climate change, this year's International Day of Forests aims to highlight how sustaining healthy forests and tackling climate change go hand in hand.

"Forests are integral to the post-2015 development agenda," said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message marking the International Day of Forests, observed on 21 March. "To build a sustainable, climate-resilient future for all, we must invest in our world's forests."

Forests are the largest storehouses of carbon after oceans. They can absorb and store carbon in their biomass, soils and products, equivalent to about one tenth of carbon emissions projected for the first half of this century. At the same time, deforestation and land-use changes account for 17 per cent of human-generated carbon dioxide emissions.

Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, said the benefits that forests provide are incalculable. "Forests drive economic development and prosperity, provide jobs and livelihoods, and at the same time, promote health and well-being. Proven solutions exist to create the future we want; investing in our forests is a pathway to transformative sustainable development."

Manoel Sobral Filho, Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, said "As the world's population grows, demand for forest goods and services continues to increase. The dividends from forest stewardship will benefit us, and future generations."

"Forests are central to the global effort to meet the climate change challenge, eradicate poverty and realise a sustainable century," said Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change."



Figueres added, "The new universal climate agreement to be inked in Paris at the end of the year needs to put in place a swift peaking of global emissions, a deep decarbonisation of the world-wide economy and climate neutrality in the second half of the century - this will not be possible without smarter and more sustainable ways of managing existing forests and the restoration and expansion of many lost and degraded ones."

Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, said tackling deforestation requires mobilizing political commitment and working through partnerships. "Addressing deforestation promises wins for our climate, biodiversity, and inclusive development. But tackling deforestation requires political will and leadership from all sectors."

Global targets set by the international community are driving action that will strengthen forest biodiversity, according to Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. "These targets provide a foundation for addressing the underlying causes and direct pressures of forest loss as well as improving its status, enhancing benefits to all and ensuring wide-spread participation in forest and tree management."

**Mike Wingfield, President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations said the many uncertainties associated with climate change require a robust understanding of appropriate forest strategies. "Global collaboration in forest research plays a key role in improving knowledge that will underpin effective measures for adaptation and mitigation."**

*The International Day of Forests is dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of all types of forests and trees outside forests. Global celebrations range from community-level tree-planting events, to publication of new forest data and analysis, as well as cultural activities featuring art, photographs and film festivals.*

(IUFRO Media Contact:  
Gerda Wolfrum, wolfrum(at)iufro.org)

## New Stoplight Tool Developed by IUFRO Scientists Presented at High-level Meeting in Bonn

High-ranking representatives from over 30 countries and numerous international organizations met at the Bonn Challenge 2.0 meeting on 20 and 21 March. The Bonn Challenge is the most comprehensive forest landscape restoration initiative in the world. Its goal is to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested lands by 2020 and at least 350 by 2030.

On this occasion, IUFRO presented a *stoplight* framework developed by IUFRO scientists to demonstrate how FLR can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The framework is part of a collaborative project and entitled *Inspire, Support, and Mobilize Forest and Landscape Restoration* between the World Resources Institute (WRI) and IUFRO, funded by the German Ministry of Environment (BMU). A final report of this study will be available in August 2015.

Visit: <http://www.iufro.org/news/article/2015/03/19/iufro-scientists-develop-flr-stoplight-tool/>  
Bonn Challenge website: <http://www.bonnchallenge.org/>



## XIV World Forestry Congress

Durban, South Africa  
7-11 September 2015

The 14th World Forestry Congress (WFC), held under the auspices of FAO and hosted by the Republic of South Africa, will bring together the global forestry community to review and analyze the key issues and to share ways of addressing them.

The main theme of the Congress is **Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future**. The six subthemes will focus on: socio-economic development and food security, building resilience, integrating land uses, encouraging product innovation and sustainable trade, monitoring for better decision-making, and improving governance. The Congress will also highlight world forestry's contribution to the implementation of the new post-2015 development agenda.

### Registration now open!

Conference registration has opened on Friday, 20 March, with special rates for *early-bird* registration. For information on how to register, visit: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/world-forestry-congress/get-involved/registration/en/>



## Call for Papers - Shifting Global Development Discourses: Implications for Forests and Livelihoods

The **IUFRO Special Project World Forests, Society and Environment (IUFRO WFSE)** invites papers on the theme "Shifting global development discourses: Implications for forests and livelihoods" to be published in a special issue of *International Forestry Review*. If it is not possible to publish all contributions under the journal format, a complementary volume will be published in the IUFRO World Series.

Sustainable development objectives and discourse have dominated environmental and development policies and practice for the past three decades. During the last decade new narratives have emerged within these discourses with catchphrases like: "Green Economy", "Inclusive Green Growth", "Low Carbon Development", "Climate-Smart Agriculture" and "Sustainable Intensification". There is no universal consensus about the meaning of these concepts; instead they are interpreted in different ways by different actors and in various contexts. The myriad of understandings of e.g. "low carbon development", "green growth" and "green economy" cover a spectrum from narrow concerns about climate change and clean energy supply at one extreme to calls for more extensive transformative change in the global economic system for more efficient resource use at the other, including calls for more sus-

tainable and inclusive commodity supply with improved equity in benefit sharing.

Although their scope and horizon vary and are still unknown, these narratives suggest new rationalities and approaches to sustainable development. This call invites authors to concentrate on the role of forests in these narratives, related strategies, agendas and practice and corresponding implications for forests and livelihoods.

Interested authors are invited to **submit by 30th April 2015 an extended abstract** (1000-1500 words) of an article with maximum length of about 7000 words to **WFSE coordinator Pia Katila (pia.katila(at)luke.fi)**. A selection of appropriate abstracts will be made by the IUFRO WFSE editors.

Please read the **related concept note**, which includes guiding research questions and practical information about this call, and the time schedule:

<http://www.iufro.org/science/special/wfse/>

For more information about IUFRO WFSE and this call visit: <http://www.iufro.org/science/special/wfse>

## Publications

### *New Case Study Added to IUFRO Occasional Paper 27:*

#### **Potentials to Mitigate Climate Change Using Biochar: Turkey's Perspective**

*Forebiom Country Case report Turkey*

FOREBIOM (<http://www.oeaw.ac.at/forebiom/>) is a joint KORANET project under the collaboration of Austria, Turkey and Korea. The research objectives in this project are to promote biochar activity to mitigate climate change, to supply high efficiency in forestry, and to allow the bioenergy sector to progress and succeed in these countries. Three workshops were organized in Vienna, Busan and Eskişehir to expand the production and utilization of biochar for climate change mitigation in the frame of FOREBIOM project.

[IUFRO Occasional Paper 27](#)

### *IUFRO Research Letters Now Combined as IUFRO Occasional Paper 28*

The IUFRO Research Letters synthesize scientific findings of IUFRO Task Forces between 2011 and 2014 and were published in October 2014. The nine publications have now been compiled in one IUFRO Occasional Paper (ISSN 1024-414X; ISBN 978-3-902762-34-4) and can be downloaded here: [IUFRO Occasional Paper 28](#)

*They cover the following themes:* Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; Education in Forest Science; Forest and Water Interactions; Forest Bioenergy; Forests and Climate Change; Forests and Human Health; Forests for People; International Forest Governance; Resources for the Future.

### **Defining and Assessing Forest Governance**

*Definitions of forest governance from a research perspective.* By Lukas Giessen and Gerard Buttoud

Research into forest governance issues is a popular and timely endeavor. The high relevance of international forest governance research is also reflected by IUFRO's dedicating to this very topic its Research Group 9.05.00 on Forest Policy and Governance, which includes Working Party 9.05.02 on Forest Governance. In this paper, the authors propose a wide definition of forest governance, which scholars may find useful to build upon and to further develop according to their empirical cases. *Read more at:* [9.05.00 publications](#)

### **New IUFRO Proceedings**

*Forest Operations in Mountainous Conditions*

Conference on 2-5 June 2013, Honne (Lillehammer), Norway; IUFRO 3.06.00; language: English; author(s): Talbot B. and Berkett H (eds.) <http://www.iufro.org/publications/proceedings/proceedings-meetings-2013/#c22612>

### **Call for Contributions for Volume 13 of NFT News**

The IUFRO Working Party on nitrogen-fixing trees has published the NFT News since 1998 to provide a platform for members to share their recent research findings and as a source of information on scientific meetings and recent literature published on nitrogen fixing trees and shrubs. So far, 12 issues have been published.

It is planned to publish the next issue in August 2015, and thereafter every July/August. We are inviting contributions for issue 13 of NFT News to be submitted by 31 May 2015. For details, please download the *Call for Contributions* at: <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-2/20000/20800/20802/publications/>

### **Bushmeat Sourcebook**

View <http://www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife-partnership/en/> and find out about the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management's new Bushmeat Sourcebook (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife-partnership/bushmeat-sourcebook/en/>), a comprehensive online resource on bushmeat.

### **New ITTO Publications**

As part of celebrations for the International Day of Forests on 21st March 2015, ITTO has released two major publications to support continued progress towards sustainable forest management in the tropics:

- *Voluntary guidelines for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests*
- *Technical guide on the quantification of carbon benefits in ITTO projects*

[http://www.itto.int/news\\_releases/id=4349](http://www.itto.int/news_releases/id=4349)

### **Forest Genetic Resources Training Guide**

*Edited by: David Boshier, Michele Bozzano, Judy Loo, Per Rudebjer. Published by: Bioversity International*

Forest genetics is often perceived as a complex and difficult subject. Tertiary education curricula tend to cover the topic superficially, or not at all. Despite rapid advances in research tools (molecular markers, biotechnology, bioinformatics, etc.) most forestry students have little exposure to FGR topics.

This Training Guide supports the teaching and learning of FGR for non-specialists. It focuses on the links between forest management and forest genetic resources: conservation strategies, forest restoration and logging, for example. The Guide consists of short science-based case studies, grouped together in thematic modules.

*Free download at:* <http://forest-genetic-resources-training-guide.bioversityinternational.org/>

*The guide is also available at:* <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-2/20000/20400/publications/>

## Announcements

### 2015 Gregory Award

G. Robinson (Bob) Gregory was an American pioneer in forest economics and resource development, but always thought of himself as a forester. This award seeks to mark the achievements of Gregory's remarkable career and further their interest in international relations by providing economic assistance to outstanding students or professionals from outside of the US and Canada to attend the annual conference of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and have meaningful engagement with foresters on this continent.

The deadline for application has been extended to May 1, 2015. Find more information at:

<http://www.xcdsystem.com/saf/site14/scholarships>

### Seeking Associate Editors for *Forest Science*

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is seeking Associate Editors for *Forest Science* (looking for international professionals – ideally from Latin America, Asia, and Africa). Please distribute the job description below to your applicable colleagues and contacts.

Interested individuals can apply by sending a CV to: Matt Walls ([wallsm\(at\)safnet.org](mailto:wallsm(at)safnet.org)) as soon as possible.

*Forest Science* is a peer-reviewed journal publishing fundamental and applied research that explores all aspects of natural and social sciences as they apply to the function and management of the forested ecosystems of the world. Topics include silviculture, forest management, biometrics, economics, entomology & pathology, fire & fuels management, forest ecology, genetics & tree improvement, geospatial technologies, harvesting & utilization, landscape ecology, operations research, forest policy, physiology, recreation, social sciences, soils & hydrology, and wildlife management.

### 2015 Markus Wallenberg Prize: Energy-efficient method for producing nanocellulose

The 2015 Marcus Wallenberg Prize is being awarded to a group of researchers from Japan and France for their development of an energy-efficient method to produce nanofibrillated cellulose. Stabilizers in chemicals, food and cosmetics, raw materials for new types of textile fibres or composites or materials for wound dressing are just a few examples of the wide field of possible applications. The official Citation and Prize motivation is published on: <http://mwp.org/>

### Discovering Plant Destroyers in South Africa with Citizen Science

Forest pathologist J Hulbert, doctoral student at IUFRO Member Organization FABI (Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute), plans to survey the indigenous forests of South Africa for Phytophthora species with the help of the public. Phytophthora, the Greek term for *plant destroyer*, is a group of plant pathogens that threaten agricultural and forest systems around the world.

More than 100 species of Phytophthora are known to exist and between 100-600 species are estimated to still be unknown to science. The scientific purpose of this initiative is to discover new species of Phytophthora that are native to forested areas of South Africa.

Hulbert is currently trying to fund the project by using Experiment: <https://experiment.com/projects/discovering-plant-destroyers-in-south-africa-with-citizen-science>

### How Susceptible are Oaks to Climate Change and Drought?

Two ecologists, Kyra Prats and Alex Todorovic-Jones of Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, a Member Organization of IUFRO, are researching the tolerance of two tree species to climatic changes, by examining leaf and tree ring properties.

The project, entitled "How susceptible are oaks to climate change and drought?" focuses on leaf traits and tree growth rings to determine the extent to which increases in drought have impacted the trees. The goal is to then compare these changes in leaf traits and tree growth rings to climate records and drought events. Researchers Kyra Prats and Alex Todorovic-Jones will investigate the cork oak in Spain and the banj oak in India, respectively.

They are currently trying to fund the project by using Experiment: <https://experiment.com/projects/how-susceptible-are-oaks-to-climate-change-and-drought/abstract>

### Obituary



We are sad to inform you that **Professor Stepan Gensiruk**, an outstanding and devoted scholar from Ukraine, passed away.

Professor Gensiruk made exceptional contributions to the development of world forestry science and published numerous scientific articles and monographs among which his "*Forests of Ukraine*" is a fundamental work. Another example of Professor Gensiruk's accomplishments is the "*Ukrainian Encyclopaedia of Forestry*". For his distinguished contribution to research and knowledge transfer, he was awarded the National Honour of Ukraine and the Silver Medal of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences.

In 2000 Professor Gensiruk received the Scientific Achievement Award of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). We express our sympathy with his family, friends, and colleagues.

## IUFRO Meetings

Search our **online calendar** for a full list of meetings!

<http://www.iufro.org/events/calendar/current/>

Find non-IUFRO meetings on the **IUFRO Noticeboard!**

<http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/>

Also search for forest-related events in **GFIS** at:

<http://www.gfis.net>

13–14 Apr 2015

### Bio-economy Symposium

#### Sowing Innovation – Reaping Sustainability: Forests' Crucial Role in a Green Economy

Vienna, Austria (prior to IUFRO Board Meeting)

IUFRO and Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW)

**Contact:** tippel(at)iufro.org

[More Information](#)

13–15 Apr 2015

### Decision Support Systems for Forestry Purposes

Łagów, Poland

IUFRO [4.02.05](#)

**Contact:** Tomasz Zawila-Niedźwiecki,

tomasz.zawila(at)lasy.gov.pl

[4.02.05 activities](#)

4–6 May 2015

### Cross-sectoral Policy Impacts on Managerial Economics and Accounting in Forestry

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

IUFRO [4.05.00](#), [9.05.03](#)

**Contact:** Mersudin Avdibegovic,

mavdibegovic(at)gmail.com

[9.05.03 activities](#)

10–14 May 2015

### 46th Annual Meeting of the International Research Group on Wood Protection

Viña del Mar, Chile

IUFRO [5.00.00](#)

**Contact:** Joris Van Acker, joris.vanacker(at)ugent.be

<http://www.irg46.com/>

20–22 May 2015

### Communication and Public Relations Meeting

Barcelona, Spain

IUFRO [9.01.02](#)

Held back to back with the annual meeting of the UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators' Network

**Contact:** Cynthia Miner, clminer(at)fs.fed.us

24–29 May 2015

### 17th IBFRA Conference

Rovaniemi, Finland

IUFRO [8.01.06](#), [1.01.01](#)

**Contact:** Raisa Mäkipää, raisa.makipaa@metla.fi

<http://www.ibfra2015.org/programme>

27–30 Aug 2015

### Competence for the future: Challenging gendered notions of learning about forest and forestry

Rogów, Poland

IUFRO [6.08.02](#), [6.08.00](#)

**Contact:** Jane Kiragu, janekw2001(at)yahoo.com

<http://www.lff2015.pl/>

28–30 Sep 2015

### SilviLaser 2015

La Grande Motte, France

IUFRO [8.01.02](#), [4.00.00](#)

**Contact:** Ronald McRoberts, rmcroberts(at)fs.fed.us

<http://silvilaser2015.teledetection.fr/>

12–13 Oct 2015

### Ecological Restoration in Southeast Asia: Challenges, Gains and Future Directions

Bogor, Indonesia

IUFRO [6.10.00](#)

**Contact:** Ellyn K. Damayanti,

ellynk.damayanti(at)gmail.com

[6.10.00 activities](#)

14–16 Oct 2015

### Effects of ungulate browsing on forest regeneration and silviculture - Special implications for *Abies alba*

Birmensdorf, Switzerland

IUFRO [1.01.09](#), [1.01.12](#)

**Contact:** Andreas Zingg, andreas.zingg(at)wsl.ch

[1.01.12 activities](#)

11–16 Apr 2016

### AUSTimber2016

Traralgon, Victoria, Australia

IUFRO [3.00.00](#)

**Contact:** Mark Brown, mbrown2(at)usc.edu.au

<http://austimber.org.au/>

11–15 Jul 2016

### Soil Bio- and Eco-engineering - The Use of Vegetation to Improve Slope Stability

Sydney, Australia

IUFRO [8.03.00](#)

**Contact:** Tom Hubble, hubble(at)mail.usyd.edu.au

<http://sydney.edu.au/science/geosciences/soil/index.shtml>

29 Aug–2 Sep 2016

### EcoSummit 2016: Ecological Sustainability: Engineering Change

Montpellier, France

IUFRO [8.03.00](#)

**Contact:** Alexia Stokes, alexia.stokes(at)cirad.fr

<http://www.ecosummit2016.org/>

17–24 Jun 2018

### All-Division 2 Conference

Prague, Czech Republic

IUFRO [2.00.00](#)

**Contact:** Yousry El-Kassaby, y.el-kassaby(at)ubc.ca

Milan Lstiburek, lstiburek(at)gmail.com

A website will be available in due course.

## Other Meetings

12–16 Oct 2015

### 6th International Wildland Fire Conference

Pyeongchang, Gangwon, Republic of Korea

Hosted by the Korea Forest Service and the Province of Gangwon

**Contact:** Ms. Sujung Shin, iwfcssj(at)forest.go.kr

<http://en.wildfire2015.kr/>