

**THE ONLINE INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE GLOBAL FOREST SCIENCE NETWORK**

## Old Forests, New Management

*By Steve Read, Conference Committee Chair, Forestry Tasmania, Australia*

An international conference entitled "Old Forests, New Management" was held in February 2008 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. The conference covered the ecology and silviculture of temperate and boreal old forests, and included insights from many large-scale, long-term, multidisciplinary experiments.

### Biology, ecology and silviculture

The subtitle of the conference was *Conservation and use of old-growth forests in the 21st century*. Its core was biology, ecology and silviculture, surrounded by presentations on social, historical and regulatory aspects. The two plenary speakers captured the mood of the conference: Professor Jerry Franklin, from the University of Washington, USA, gave an overview of the biological values of old forests, noting how continued disturbance is often needed for their renewal, but also how legacy structures surviving disturbance are vital for developing complexity in the regenerating forest. Professor Jürgen Bauhus from the University of Freiburg, Germany, described the importance of silvicultural systems that develop, maintain and retain old-growth features in stands of various ages across the forested landscape.

### Modern management of old forests

The success of the conference could be attributed to the simultaneous timeliness of the subject matter at local, national and international levels. The similarity of issues, and silvicultural and management responses, on four continents, namely Australia, North and South America, and Europe, was striking, and variable retention silviculture, a stand-level management and conservation approach using nature as a guide, is now recognized as the global standard for harvesting of old forests. The three Rs of modern management of old forests, retention, restoration



*Michael McClellan, from the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Juneau, Alaska, at the Glover's Bluff outlook, Warra LTER site, southern Tasmania, discussing his experience of silvicultural alternatives to clear-cutting, against a background of a harvesting coupe in tall eucalypt forest. (Photo: Steve Read)*

and reservation, were also commonly acknowledged. One of the main messages of the conference was that a structural definition of old-growth was to be preferred to a time-since-disturbance definition since biodiversity responds to forest structural elements. Participants also pointed out the importance of a landscape-scale view of forest management outcomes. Finally, the influence of climate change was discussed from various perspectives. Climate change will change the forest landscape in unpredictable ways, most especially through altered disturbance regimes. It was also noted that old-growth forests have a complex interaction with the carbon cycle as they store substantial amounts of carbon but can either absorb or release carbon.

*The program, details of speakers, and many of the presentations can be found at the conference website [www.oldforests.com](http://www.oldforests.com). Selected conference papers will be published in a special issue of *Forest Ecology and Management*, with selected papers of more regional interest being published in a special issue of *Tasforests*.*

The "Old Forests, New Management" conference attracted 270 registrants from 20 countries. It was funded through the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement between the Australian Commonwealth and the Tasmanian State governments, and additional sponsorship was obtained from the Sir Mark Oliphant International Frontiers of Science and Technology conference series.

The conference was hosted by Forestry Tasmania and the Cooperative Research Centre for Forestry, with the support of IUFRO Units 4.00.00 Forest Assessment, Modelling and Management and 1.05.00 Uneven-Aged Silviculture.

The conference included a field trip to the Warra Long-Term Ecological Research site in Tasmania's southern forests ([www.warra.com](http://www.warra.com)), site of a silvicultural systems trial investigating alternatives to clear-felling in tall eucalypt forests.



## IUFRO Seeks Expert in Public Relations and Communication for a One-year Secondment

Strengthening communication and links within the scientific community and with students as well as with policy makers and society at large is one of the major goals set out in the IUFRO Strategy 2006-2010. In attaining this goal IUFRO has already taken a number of successful measures also in cooperation with the IUFRO Task Force on Communicating Forest Science. IUFRO is now inviting a public relations and communication specialist with an excellent command of English to Vienna, Austria, to work at IUFRO Headquarters for one year on secondment starting as soon as possible. IUFRO offers to contribute to the expenses of the stay to an amount to be negotiated.

### If you are interested, please contact:

Dr. Peter Mayer, IUFRO Executive Director, IUFRO Headquarters, Hauptstrasse 7, 1140 Vienna, Austria, mayer(at)iufro.org

## Publications

### Small-scale Forestry

The international journal for multidisciplinary research into small-scale forestry

The journal presents empirical, theoretical, modeling, and methodological papers on all topics relevant to the social, economic and technical dimensions of farm, family, non-industrial and community forestry. Of particular interest to the global research community, Small-scale Forestry is also useful to both policy makers and forest managers.



### Special IUFRO Membership Subscription Rate!

Individuals belonging to an IUFRO Member Organization and IUFRO Associate Members are offered a special membership subscription for the **online version of Small-scale Forestry** (the offer does not apply to institutional subscribers).

The yearly subscription rate for 2008/ 2009 is EUR 35.00 / USD 42.00 which is a 50% discount off the normal individual rate. To subscribe to the journal for this special price please follow the link to the special offer: <http://www.iufro.org/auth/publications/subscription-special/> and log in to your IUFRO member account for further instructions.

### Urban Forestry & Urban Greening

Issue 1 of 2008 is available online at:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com>

(Search for the journal name.) Papers deal with issues as different as feng-shui landscapes in Okinawa, Japan, the green structure of Hanoi, Vietnam, and alien plant species in South-African towns. Moreover, keep an eye out for issue 2, which will be released during early spring. Good research papers, review articles, short communications and book reviews are always welcome. For submission details, see <http://ees.elsevier.com/ufug>.

### IUFRO World Series Volume 9-it Terminologia dell' Assestamento Forestale

Termini e definizioni nella lingua italiana

Mario Broll, Günther Unterthiner

ISSN 1016-3263; ISBN 978-3-901347-75-0

IUFRO, Vienna 2007

Price: EUR 20.-

**Now available from:**

IUFRO Headquarters, office(at)iufro.org

## Announcements

### International Fellowships Available at the World Forest Institute

The World Forest Institute Fellowship Program brings forestry and natural resources professionals from around the world to work at the World Forest Institute in Portland, Oregon, USA for 6 to 12 months. Fellows conduct an independent research project developed in conjunction with his/her sponsor. Projects are typically either policy or marketing studies, and may be environmental, social or economic in focus. Activities involve information gathering through interviews, meeting with forestry organizations, and taking organized field trips.

For more information visit <http://wfi.worldforestry.org> or contact Angie DiSalvo, adisalvo(at)worldforestry.org.

18 to 25 October 2009

### XIIIth World Forestry Congress

Buenos Aires, Argentina

#### First Call for Voluntary Papers and Posters

Under the theme "Forests in development – a vital balance", the Congress will address the sustainable development of forests from a global and integral perspective. All interested persons are invited to submit voluntary papers and posters expressing new ideas and providing information on experiences, theoretical models and interesting initiatives. Papers will be published in the Congress Proceedings and posted on the Congress's official website.

The information or guidelines for presentations can be downloaded from the Congress webpage:

<http://www.wfc2009.org>

or requested by e-mail to: info(at)wfc2009.org

## IUFRO Meetings

**NOTE: The following list of meetings is just a selection!**

For a full list of IUFRO events, please visit our online [calendar](#), or the [homepages](#) of IUFRO Units involved. Non-IUFRO meetings are also announced on the IUFRO [Noticeboard](#) on our web site.

8-14 June 2008

**Connection between Forest Resources and Wood Quality: Modelling Approaches and Simulation Software**

Joensuu, Finland

IUFRO [5.01.04](#)

**Contact:** General, iufro2008.jns@joensuu.fi

<http://www.joensuu.fi/metsatdk/IUFRO2008/index.html>

15-20 June 2008

**IUFRO All Division 3 Conference**

Sapporo, Japan

IUFRO [3.00.00](#)

**Contact:** Rin Sakurai, JFESiufro@hatch.fr.a.u-tokyo.ac.jp

<http://jfes.ac.affrc.go.jp/IUFRO2008.html>

14-18 July 2008

**Ground Bio- and Eco-engineering. The Use of Vegetation to Improve Slope Stability**

Beijing, China

IUFRO [8.03.00](#)

**Contact:** Gernot Fiebiger, zt(at)fiEbiger.eu

<http://bibamap.cirad.fr/cmsmadesimple/index.php>

25-28 August 2008

**Adaptation of Forests and Forest Management to Climate Change with Emphasis on Forest Health – Review of Science, Policies, and Practices**

Umeå, Sweden

IUFRO, SLU, FAO

**Contact:** Björn Hanell, bjorn.hanell(at)ssko.slu.se

<http://www.forestadaptation2008.net/home/en/>

25-28 August 2008

**IUFRO-CTIA 2008 Joint Meeting : Adaptation, Breeding and Conservation in the Era of Forest Tree Genomics and Environmental Change**

Quebec, Canada

IUFRO [2.04.01](#), [2.04.10](#)

**Contact:** General, info@iufro-ctia2008.ca

<http://www.iufro-ctia2008.ca/>

26-30 August 2008

**Toward the Establishment of the Multi-purpose and Long-term Forest Management Plans**

Tsuruoka, Yamagata, Japan

IUFRO 4.02.02

**Contact:** Yoshihiro Nobori, ynobori(at)tds1.tr.yamagata-u.ac.jp,

<http://www.tr.yamagata-u.ac.jp/~fi/JIM/>

8-12 September 2008

**8th IUFRO International Beech Symposium and Field Tour**

Nanae, Japan

IUFRO [1.01.07](#)

**Contact:** Palle Madsen, Email: pam(insert at)life.ku.dk;

<http://www6.ocn.ne.jp/%7Ebeech08/>

15-19 September 2008

**Methodology of Forest Insect and Disease Survey in Central Europe**

Strbske Pleso, Slovakia

IUFRO [7.03.10](#)

**Contact:** Andrej Kunca, kunca@nlcsk.org

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-7/70000/70300/70310/activities/>

13-16 October 2008

**Traditional Forest-related Knowledge and Sustainable Forest Management in Africa**

Accra, Ghana

IUFRO TF on Traditional Forest Knowledge, CSIR, University of Ghana

**Contact:** Alfred Oteng-Yeboah,

otengyeboah(at)yahoo.co.uk;

John Parrotta, jparrotta(at)fs.fed.us

<http://www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/traditional-forest-knowledge/activities/>

30-31 October 2008

**Water and Forests: a Convenient Truth?**

Barcelona, Spain

IUFRO TF on Forest and Water Interactions, EFI etc.

**Contact:** Marc Palahi, marc.palahi(at)efi.int

<http://www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/water/activities-and-events/>

24-26 November 2008

**Figures for Forests**

Freiburg, Germany

IUFRO 4.05.00

**Contact:** Shashi Kant, shashi.kant(at)utoronto.ca

<http://figuresforforests.fva-bw.de>

## Non-IUFRO Meetings

7-9 April 2008

**International Seminar: Proyectos MDL y Mercados Voluntarios en el Sector Forestal**

Bogotá, Colombia

Organized by CONIF

<http://www.conif.org.co>

20-29 April 2008

**INBAR Bamboo Study Tour**

Zhejiang and Sichuan Province, China

**Contact:** FU Jinhe, jfu(at)inbar.int

16-18 June 2008

**ISA European Congress of Arboriculture**

Turin, Italy

<http://www.isaeuropeancongress.eu/>

6-8 November 2008

**The European Forest-based Sector: Bio-responses to Address New Climate and Energy Challenges?**

Nancy, France

**Contact:** Jean-Luc Peyron, jean-luc.peyron(at)gip-

ecofor.org; <http://www.gip-ecofor.org>