

## SmallWood 2010 : Bridges, Business, and Biomass

By Chris Risbrudt, Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Division 5

The SmallWood 2010 national conference held April 20-22, 2010, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, USA, provided state-of-the-art information and fostered peer-to-peer learning among those actively engaged in small-diameter and woody biomass utilization.

The first SmallWood conference was held in 1998 in Lewiston, Idaho, and has been held every two years since. These conferences address potential utilization options for small-diameter and underutilized trees. Enormous quantities of woody biomass are generated today from forestry businesses, fuel reduction and landscape restoration projects, forest thinning operations, insect infestations, and natural disasters such as hurricanes. These issues drive the need to create solutions for using low-value waste wood.

SmallWood 2010 held 14 technical sessions with more than 60 speakers and moderators that bridged a wide array of small-diameter and woody biomass sectors, technologies, and technical disciplines. New for SmallWood 2010 was a focus on timber bridges and potential opportunities for using small-diameter material in bridge applications. An evening session was dedicated to networking.

For two days in concurrent sessions, an extremely knowledgeable slate of speakers, practitioners, and experts from across the United States presented information on woody biomass topics such as federal policy and its impact on public and private forest owners, timber supply and resource competition, emerging timber bridge technologies and opportunities, kiln drying, using beetle-killed trees for wood pellet production, wood energy systems, marketing, durability and preservative issues, and procurement, processing, and transportation challenges.

On the evening of the first day of the conference, participants attended an informal reception that included information exhibits and technical poster presentations on various facets of small-tree utilization. It also gave practitioners and experts including land managers, producers, and users of small-diameter and



*Rattlesnake (small-diameter) pedestrian bridge, Missoula, MT. Photographer: U.S. Forest Service.*



*Harvesting woody biomass, northern Wisconsin. Photographer: U.S. Forest Service*

woody biomass, equipment manufacturers, investors, and policy makers the opportunity to network and stay abreast of current and emerging smallwood technologies.

On the last day of the conference, attendees were given the option of two field tours in the surrounding Hot Springs area to visit businesses and operations that use woody biomass. Operations included a hardwood composite mill, wood pellet plant, and energy plantation research plot, two timber bridges, which included the longest stress-laminated bridge in the United States.

Almost 200 people from 5 countries (Canada, United States, Austria, Portugal, Italy) attended this conference co-sponsored by IUFRO Division 5. In addition to the USDA Forest Service, major sponsors of this conference included the Biomass Energy Resource Center (BERC), the Southern Group of State Foresters, and the Arkansas Forestry Commission.

Link to biographies, abstracts, and presentations given at SmallWood 2010:  
<http://www.forestprod.org/smallwood2010/information.html>

## Air Pollution and Climate Change: Major Threats for Forests

By Yusuf Serengil, IUFRO 7.01.03 and Elena Paoletti, IUFRO 7.01.00

The IUFRO 7.01.00 RG biannual meeting on "Adaptation of Forest Ecosystems to Air Pollution and Climate Change" was held from 22-26 March 2010 in Antalya located on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. It was a successful meeting with more than 150 participants from 35 countries. The conference provided an opportunity to update the scientific knowledge needed for developing strategies of forest adaptation to a changing environment.

The focus of the IUFRO 7.01.00 biannual meeting on "Adaptation of Forest Ecosystems to Air Pollution and Climate Change" from 22-26 March 2010 in Antalya, Turkey, was on research, monitoring and modeling of air pollution and climate change impacts on forests and forest ecosystem services. Responses to anthropogenic stressors - such as CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment, elevated levels of background ozone, enhanced nitrogen deposition, acidic deposition - and scenarios of climate change - such as altered temperature and moisture regimes, extreme events, increased fire - were emphasized in particular.

A special focus was placed on monitoring strategies and methods together with nutrient cycles and atmospheric deposition. Combined effects of multiple stressors, ecological and genetic aspects, response indicators, modeling, water cycle, and social aspects were also investigated.

The location of the meeting provided an opportunity to extend the emphasis on Mediterranean climate and water scarcity issues. Some papers in this context were on desertification and erosion monitoring and modeling.

One of the main conclusions was to promote long-term monitoring programs and to account for the effects of extreme years, and past and present management



Photo by Tzvetan Zlatanov, Bulgaria

practices. Long-term monitoring is a tool to help understand the effects of forestry treatments on the nutrient and water budgets of the ecosystems which may enable to improve management practices like water saving silviculture. It is important to reveal the influence of forest management on water quality, quantity, and regime and also the effects of air pollution and climate change on it. Variation in water availability due to changing climatic conditions was also stressed as a major point of concern.

The proceedings are under peer-review for publication in international journals. For further details, contact:

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XXIII IUFRO  
World Congress



### Forests for the Future: Sustaining Society and the Environment

23-28 August 2010  
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
<http://www.iufro2010.com>

Visit the [News and Media Pages at the Congress website and download:](#)

**News release** about "One Hundred Days Ahead of the IUFRO World Congress in Seoul, Korea"

**May issue** of the Congress e-newsletter including information on:

Numbers of registrants and abstracts on the program  
Press briefing 100 days ahead of the Congress  
Participation and Sponsorship of Trade & Exhibition

*Congress promotion videos*

**For any further questions, contact:**

Congress Organizing Committee  
iufrococ(at)forest.go.kr  
INTERCOM Convention Services, Inc.  
iufro2010(at)intercom.co.kr

(Photo source: IUFRO World Congress online gallery)

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## Forest Monitoring: Linking Science and Policy

*7th in a series of releases related to the XXIII IUFRO World Congress*

All news stories are available for download under:  
<http://www.iufro.org/media/iwc2010-news-stories/>

*Committing finances to something as long-term as forest monitoring can be unsettling for politicians. Their careers hinge on regular elections – at short-term intervals.*

Putting money into monitoring “makes good sense... But we need to show them that it makes sense,” said Konstantin von Teuffel, of the Forest Research Institute in Baden-Württemberg, Germany. “If, for example, politicians are to decide on subsidy programs, or decide on legislation or policies on climate change, they need to know what state the forests are in. And they need to know based on sound scientific measurements taken over a reasonably lengthy period of time, not assumptions.”

Dr. von Teuffel will coordinate a session linking long-term scientific forest monitoring to political decision-making at the 2010 IUFRO World Congress in Seoul.

He plans to build on information gathered in Buenos Aires at the World Forestry Congress last fall, where politicians and decision-makers involved in forest issues were asked about their expectations in regard to monitoring activities. “That input will be presented to the scientists in Seoul and we will discuss how best to respond to the policy makers’ needs,” he said. “We must show that monitoring is connected to real world decisions.”

He sees his session helping to increase awareness of the importance of long-term monitoring – the challenges, opportunities and priorities. It will bring together people from all continents and, he anticipates, result in a catalogue of guidelines that will allow researchers to group and prioritize forest-monitoring needs and also outline some best practices.



*Paracou forests from the carbon flux monitoring tower, French Guiana. Photo taken by Laurène Feintrenie (IRD/CIFOR)*

## African Forests and People Need to Adapt to Climate Change

*New Policy Brief Takes a View of Climate Change Impacts and Options for Adaptation*

The Policy Brief is available for download under:  
<http://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/african-policy-brief/>



*In southern Africa, baobab trees provide a variety of traditional products. The regeneration potential of baobab is limited by factors not related to climate, such as livestock grazing, and by climatic influences, such as those affecting the incidence and severity of fire.*

*Photo taken by Mike Wingfield*

Average annual temperatures in Africa have risen steadily over the past decades and an even higher increase is predicted for the years ahead. Current climate models project a mean temperature rise of 3–4°C across the continent by the end of this century, which would be approximately 1.5 times the global average increase. Do African forest ecosystems have a chance to adapt to such conditions and can they still provide the vital goods and services that people in Africa so strongly depend on?

IUFRO’s new Policy Brief focuses exactly on these questions. The publication with the title “Making African Forests Fit for Climate Change: A regional View of Climate-Change Impacts on Forests and People and Options for Adaptation” is the result of cooperation between the IUFRO-led initiative “Global Forest Expert Panels” (GFEP) of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the IUFRO Special Programme for Developing Countries (IUFRO-SPDC), and key experts from the Forestry Research Network for Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA). The Policy Brief underlines the crucial role that African forests play in supporting peoples’ livelihoods. Now, however, climate change is putting sustainable development at risk. “Individuals, societies and institutions should be aware of the likely impacts of climate change on forests and should have adaptation strategies in place to address them”, concludes Dr. Victor Agyeman, Director of the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana and current Chairman of FORNESSA.

## Announcements

### Congratulations!

IUFRO would like to congratulate Professor Kazuo Suzuki, IUFRO International Council Representative of Japan, on the occasion of receiving the Green Medal for excellent achievements in green science from the Japanese Prime Minister Hatoyama in the presence of the Emperor and Empress of Japan and many Japanese Ministers.



(Photo provided by Professor Suzuki)

## Publications

### Forests for People

edited by Anne Larson, Deborah Barry, Ganga Ram Dahal and Carol Colfer reports on the results of a recent CIFOR project that took a modified action research approach to look at tenure in 12 countries.

[http://www.earthscan.co.uk/Portals/0/pdfs/forests\\_for\\_people.pdf](http://www.earthscan.co.uk/Portals/0/pdfs/forests_for_people.pdf)

### Hidden Forestry Revealed: Characteristics, constraints and opportunities for small and medium forest enterprises in Ghana

New Report published by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

Download:

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=13552IIED>

## New Website

UNEP-WCMC, with support from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), has launched a new website highlighting the potential for actions on reducing emissions from land use change to secure additional important benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services (co-benefits).

To access the website and interactive tool, please go to <http://www.carbon-biodiversity.net>

For more information please contact: [ccb\(at\)unep-wcmc.org](mailto:ccb(at)unep-wcmc.org)

## IUFRO Meetings

Search our [online calendar](#) for a full list of meetings. Find non-IUFRO meetings on the IUFRO [Noticeboard](#). Also search for forest-related events at: <http://www.gfis.net>

17-20 August 2010

### IUFRO 5.10.00 & The UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing: Joint Pre-Conference to the IUFRO World Congress

Hokkaido, Japan

IUFRO [5.10.00](#)

**Contact:** Richard P. Vlosky, [rvlosky\(at\)agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rvlosky(at)agcenter.lsu.edu) ; Eric N. Hansen, [eric.hansen2\(at\)oregonstate.edu](mailto:eric.hansen2(at)oregonstate.edu) ; Toshiaki Owari, [owari\(at\)uf.a.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:owari(at)uf.a.u-tokyo.ac.jp)  
<http://www.uf.a.u-tokyo.ac.jp/hokuen/iufro2010/>

26 Jun - 2 Jul 2011

### Tree Biotechnology 2011 - From genomes to integration and delivery

Arraial d'Ajuda, Bahia, Brazil

IUFRO [2.04.06](#)

**Contact:** Dario Grattapaglia, [dario\(at\)cenargen.embrapa.br](mailto:dario(at)cenargen.embrapa.br)  
<http://www.treebiotech2011.com>

15-25 Aug 2011

### 4th Conference on the Breeding and Genetic Resources of Five-Needle Pines

Tomsk, Russia

IUFRO [2.02.15](#)

**Contact:** John King, Email: [John.King\(at\)gov.bc.ca](mailto:John.King(at)gov.bc.ca)

## Other Meetings

3 Jun 2010

### Seminar: "Impact of Wood-based Bioenergy on Forests, Forest Dependent People and the Climate – A Southern Perspective"

European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

**Contact:** Yolanda Sikking, [yolanda.sikking\(at\)globalforestcoalition.org](mailto:yolanda.sikking(at)globalforestcoalition.org)  
<http://www.globalforestcoalition.org/paginas/view/244>

28 Jun – 2 Jul 2010

### 18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference

Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

<http://www.cfc2010.org/>

16-20 August 2010

### 2nd International Conference: Climate, Sustainability and Development in Semi-arid Regions

Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil

**Contact:** [contact\(at\)icid18.org](mailto:contact(at)icid18.org)  
<http://www.icid18.org/>