

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

**European Ministers Consent to Negotiate Legally Binding Agreement on Forests – a Window of Opportunity for Forest Science?**

By Alexander Buck, IUFRO Executive Director

At the Forest Europe Ministerial Conference held from 14 to 16 June 2011 in Oslo, Norway, the Ministers and high-level representatives of 43 European countries and the European Community adopted a mandate to start negotiations on a legally binding agreement (LBA) on forests in Europe. The establishment of an LBA in Europe would create a new international rule that has the potential to influence policy change also in other regions of the world and possibly also at the global level.

*"Against the background of an increasing fragmentation of policies and legislation regarding forests especially at the level of the European Union, it is our hope that a legally-binding agreement on forests will contribute to more coherent policy development and implementation in Europe", says Mr. Gerhard Mannsberger, Head of the Forestry Department of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. "For the scientific community the negotiations on a legally-binding instrument create a window of opportunity to provide independent scientific and policy advice, and IUFRO has a lot to offer in this respect."*

In the mandate, the Ministers established an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with the task to develop a legally-binding agreement on forests by 30 June 2013. The work of the Committee will be chaired by Jan Heino who will add this challenging new task to his service as IUFRO's Development Officer.

The Ministers also adopted the Oslo Ministerial Decision "European Forests 2020" containing a vision, goals, targets and actions for Europe's forests. In their Decision, the ministers recognize "the value of adequate and accessible forest information [...] as well as science-based knowledge, for decision making at all levels".

**Vision for Forests in Europe**

*To shape a future where all European forests are vital, productive and multifunctional. Where forests contribute effectively to sustainable development, through ensuring human well-being, a healthy environment and economic development in Europe and across the globe. Where the forests' unique potential to support a green economy, livelihoods, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, enhancing water quality and combating desertification is realised to the benefit of society.*

One of the specific European 2020 Targets is to improve forest knowledge through research, education, innovation, information sharing and communication when addressing emerging issues. In order to implement the Ministerial Decision, a work programme will be developed for the next four years in cooperation with partners. It is expected that both the negotiations by the INC and the new Forest Europe Work Programme will provide specific opportunities for scientific contributions on issues such as biodiversity, climate change, water, bioenergy, and governance.

IUFRO contributed to the conference by providing input to a joint statement of the Major Group Scientific Community. In this statement, which was delivered by Director Risto Päivinen of the European Forest Institute on behalf of the Major Group, the scientific community expressed its commitment to support the negotiating process by providing the latest science-based knowledge and expertise.

Furthermore, IUFRO participated in a panel debate on the topic "European Forests in a Global Perspective" that formed part of the Ministerial Conference.



In his statement, **IUFRO President Niels Elers Koch** pointed out that today's main forest problems are highly cross-sectoral and require sharing of experiences and learning across countries, sectors and stakeholders.

"IUFRO supports such efforts by means of concrete scientific knowledge, for example through the IUFRO-led Global Forest Expert Panels and the newly established IUFRO Task Force on International Forest Governance", said Professor Elers Koch.

He drew the attention of the high-level audience to a [fact sheet](#) on international forest governance that had been prepared by IUFRO specifically for the conference.

The Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe and the Oslo Ministerial Decision "European Forests 2020" can be downloaded at <http://www.foresteuropa.org>.

FOREST EUROPE has also published the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report and Summary for Policy Makers at <http://www.foresteuropa.org/Publications>.

## Multi-disciplinary Approach to Dealing with Climate Change Impacts on Mediterranean Pines

By Eric Rigolot (Conference Chair), Mediterranean Forest Ecology Research Unit (UR629), National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) Avignon, France

The 4th International Conference on Mediterranean Pines (MEDPINE 4) was held in Avignon, France, from 6 to 10 June 2011. It was organized by the research unit on the Ecology of Mediterranean Forest of INRA and involved IUFRO Units [4.00.00](#), [8.03.05](#), [2.02.13](#), [1.01.10](#), and [8.00.00](#).

The conference showed the benefits of an inter-disciplinary approach integrating and combining knowledge from ecology, genetics, eco-physiology, fire sciences and forest dynamics in order to develop new decision support tools to address the challenge of climate change and propose adaptive management measures for Mediterranean pine ecosystems.

In view of the challenges of the global change impacts, the MEDPINE 4 Conference focused on conservation, restoration and management of Mediterranean Pines and their ecosystems and was an opportunity to stimulate a multi-disciplinary dialogue.

Around 150 researchers and managers from 14 countries attended and debated on European Mediterranean pine species. Participants originated primarily from the Mediterranean basin but also from other regions under Mediterranean bioclimate (California, South Africa, Australia).

A field trip to Luberon Regional Natural Park allowed discussions on fire hazard mitigation in mixed pine – oak communities; another to Fontblanche, a long term multi agencies research site led by INRA, aimed at monitoring carbon and water fluxes from the plant to the ecosystem, with a particular emphasis to drought effects.



Field visit at Luberon Natural Park  
(© A. Glémin, INRA-PACA, Avignon)

The MEDPINE 4 presentations are displayed on the conference web site and the abstract book can be downloaded on <https://colloque.inra.fr/medpine4/MEDPINE-4/News/Post-conference-news>

By the end of the year, the journal *Annals of Forest Science* (<http://www.afs-journal.org>) will publish a thematic issue devoted to the MEDPINE 4 conference. Furthermore, main conference outcomes will be summarized both in the *FAO-Silva Mediterranea* newsletter and in the *Forêt Méditerranéenne* review.

The next MEDPINE conference will be organized in 2014 by the Forest Sciences Center of Catalonia (CTFC), an applied research, forestry training and technology transfer centre located in the Catalanian pre-Pyrenees, in the town of Solsona, Catalonia, Spain.

MEDPINE 4 was supported by the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), the City of Avignon, the Vaucluse Department, the Provence Alpes Cotes d'Azur Region, *Silva Mediterranea* from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the industry Fibre Excellence Tarascon.

## IUFRO Tree Biotechnology 2011

In his message posted at the conference website, Conference Chair *Dario Grattapaglia*, Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO [2.04.06](#), underlines that the conference held in Arraial d'Ajuda, Bahia, Brazil, 26 June-7 July 2011, has made a significant contribution to advancing the forest biotechnology research community one step ahead on the challenging task of moving from gene and genome discoveries to the delivery of effective biotechnologies into sustainable production forestry.

In nine scientific sessions the current advances in forest tree genetics, physiology, stress response, molecular breeding, in vitro and propagation technologies, wood development, genomics technologies and genetically modified (GM) trees were highlighted.

Read more at: <http://www.treebiotech2011.com/>



Photo (from Conference website):  
Participants of IUFRO Tree Biotechnology Conference 2011

## UNECE/FAO & IUFRO 5.10.00 Joint Meeting on Forest Products Marketing

By Eric Hansen, Coordinator, IUFRO 5.10.00

A successful joint meeting between IUFRO 5.10.00 and the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing was held as part of the IUFRO XXIII World Congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea in 2010. The two Teams met again in 2011 in conjunction with the Forest Products Society and Society of Wood Science and Technology conventions in Portland, Oregon.

The conference took place from 15-18 June 2011 in Corvallis, Oregon, United States and was hosted by Oregon State University. It was attended by 28 participants from 11 countries, including 13 graduate students and one undergraduate student.

This highly successful meeting focusing on marketing and business practices in the global forest industry included a total of 18 presentations. Ten of these were given by graduate students. A keynote presentation focused on industry research needs (Ernesto Wagner, Weyerhaeuser Company). Dr. Wagner emphasized that high priority industry research needs include biomass/biofuels, environmental services/watersheds, and carbon credits as well as what he described as "normal" forest products.

*Photo credits: Rebecca Hamner  
Conference participants learning about Oregon Forests*

General topics of presentation were the evolution of marketing in the industry, innovation, entrepreneurship, forest certification and willingness to pay, pricing, branding, bioenergy, corporate social responsibility, and marketing databases. Based on a presentation of currently available databases, collected through a simple survey before the meeting, the groups discussed the gaps for market analyses. They recognized the need to have a listing of websites for marketing databases.

The meeting was primarily a sharing of current forest products marketing research activities.

Presentation titles and speakers' names may be found at: <http://fbsg.forestry.oregonstate.edu/uneceiufro-meeting>.



## Forest Research, UK: IUFRO's Featured Member

In the "Featured Member" section of the IUFRO Homepage IUFRO offers its Member Organizations the opportunity to present themselves and highlight their research activities and achievements. (For details, contact [office\(at\)iufro.org](mailto:office(at)iufro.org))

Forest Research, the research agency of the Forestry Commission, the UK Government department responsible for forestry, has seized this opportunity and presents itself at:

<http://www.iufro.org/featured-member-of-the-month/article/2011/07/25/forest-research-uk/>

Forest Research employs about 230 people across England, Scotland and Wales. It has two main research stations; Alice Holt in Surrey in the south of England, and Northern Research Station which is near to Edinburgh in Scotland.

Scientists at Forest Research provide robust science, evidence, analysis and advice to Government, European and international institutions and the private sector as well as practical solutions for sustainable forest management for a broad range of clients.

Forest Research staff have been involved with IUFRO since its establishment and have found the interaction with international scientists to be highly beneficial. Awareness of wider science and of forest science globally and connecting this to the forest sector is a critical part of Forest Research's mission. Staff members also value the

opportunity to contribute their skills and expertise to global forestry for example through the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, and the professional relationships established with IUFRO.

For more information on Forest Research, please go to: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestresearch>



*Photo by Forest Research, copyright 2011:  
Forest Research and Forestry Commission Scotland with the Eco Task Force, a special unit of the Indian Army at the Mussouri hills mining restoration, in the outer hills of the Himalayas, Uttarakhand India' - work which was conducted as part of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration of which IUFRO is a partner.*

## Publications

### **New Book: IUFRO World Series 26**

#### **Traditional Forest Related Knowledge, Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management in Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia.**

Andrey Laletin, John A. Parrotta, Ilya Domashov (editors). Papers from the conference held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 28-30 June, 2009, ISBN 978-3-902762-06-1 Available from IUFRO Headquarters: office(at)iufro.org

### **Newsletter**

#### **IUFRO Research Group 7.03.00 "Entomology"**

Issue June 2011

Find out about the manifold and interesting activities of the Entomology Research Group at:

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

### **UN-REDD Programme Newsletter**

<http://www.un-redd.org/Newsletter20/tabid/54362/Default.aspx>

This issue contains, among other things, a commentary on a Regional Workshop in Ecuador that focused on rights and REDD+ in the Amazon.

### **Proceedings**

From the National Workshop on "Guiding Forest Management on Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Adaptation", Regional Center for Development Cooperation (RCDC), held on 10 and 11 February 2011 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-9/90000/90500/90506/publications/>

### **Forest Health: An Integrated Perspective**

This new textbook on forest health co-edited by Stephen A. Teale and John Castello, both State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, was published by Cambridge University Press (CUP)

<http://www.cambridge.org/US/9780521747417>

### **Forest Entomology: A Global Perspective**

by William M. Ciesla, published by Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford, UK. Information on the content and how to order it is available on the following web site:

<http://www.wiley-vch.de/publish/en/books/ISBN978-1-4443-3314-5>

### **Research on the Forest Accounting within the Framework of Green National Economy in China (in Chinese)**

Prepared by a research team coordinated by SFA (State Forestry Administration) and published by the China Forestry Publishing House in September 2010. For details, contact: Dr. Shuirong Wu (Ms), wu.shuirong(at)gmail.com

### **Principles and practice of forest landscape restoration: case studies from the drylands of Latin America**

This [book](#) published by IUCN presents the results of an international research project, which was designed explicitly to examine application of the forest landscape restoration (FLR) approach to dryland forest ecosystems in Latin America. Contact: Natalia Tejedor Garavito, ntejedor(at)bournemouth.ac.uk, for more information.

### **Enhancing the trade of legally produced timber. A guide to initiatives.**

Dam, Jinke van & Savenije, Herman. 2011.

The [document](#) has been published by Tropenbos International with support of the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation.

Contact:

Herman Savenije, herman.savenije(at)tropenbos.org

## Announcements

### **EFI Seeks Head of Unit for its FLEGT and REDD Unit**

The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organization with 23 European member countries, and over 120 Associate Member institutions. The Head of the FLEGT and REDD Unit will be based at EFI's Policy Advice Office in Barcelona, Spain.

Deadline for applications is 1 September 2011.

Contact: Mrs. Niina Verkerk, niina.verkerk(at)efi.int

<http://www.euflegt.efi.int>

### **Dean of the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science**

The School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI, United States, invites applications for the position of Dean by 1 October or until the position is filled.

For details, please go to Position Announcements on:

<http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/#c14607>

### **M.S. Graduate Assistantship in Forest Entomology**

The Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia, Athens invites applications for a M.S. Assistantship starting in fall 2011/spring 2012. The Forest Entomology laboratory works on a broad range of forest health issues, insect species, and ecosystem-types.

Contact: Dr. Kamal JK Gandhi kgandhi(at)warnell.uga.edu

<http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/#c14607>

### **Forest Heroes Programme and Awards**

The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat has launched the Forest Heroes Programme and Awards. In the International Year of Forests, the programme aims to recognize the efforts of everyday people who tirelessly work towards sustaining, protecting, and developing our forests.

Find more information on:

<http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/#c51>

### **IAWS PhD Thesis Award**

The competition is limited to students on wood science receiving their degrees in other than their native country. The thesis/dissertation must have been completed within the period of 26 April 2010—26 April 2011. Deadline: 30 September 2011. For details see: [http://www.iufro.org/download/file/7265/95/nb-iaws-phd-award\\_doc/](http://www.iufro.org/download/file/7265/95/nb-iaws-phd-award_doc/)

### **United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB)**

The promotional video outlining the goals of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB) is now available in English on the UNDB website at:

<http://www.cbd.int/2011-2020>

## 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 in GFIS at:  
<http://www.gfis.net>

26-28 Oct 2011

### VIII Congreso Latinoamericano de Derecho Forestal – Ambiental

San José, Costa Rica

IUFRO [9.06.01](#)

**Contact:** Lucia Ruiz, lruiz(at)cima.org.pe

<http://www.congresoforestalcr.org>

4-5 Nov 2011

### Training Workshop “Communicating Forest Research – Making Science Work for Policy and Management”

Beijing, China, prior to the 2nd Asia Pacific Forestry Week

IUFRO-SPDC; [9.01.02](#)

**Contact:** Michael Kleine, kleine(at)iufro.org

<http://www.iufro.org/science/special/spdc/comforres/>

6-11 Nov 2011

### The Future Role of Bio-Energy from Tree Biomass in Europe

Vienna, Austria

IUFRO Taskforce on [Forest Bioenergy](#)

**Contact:** Rolf Björheden Rolf.Bjorheden(at)skogforsk.se

<http://www.esf.org/index.php?id=8196>

8-11 Nov 2011

### IUFRO Forest Entomology – Forest Pathology Joint Meeting

Colonia Del Sacramento, Uruguay

IUFRO [7.02.00](#), [7.03.00](#)

**Contact:** Guillermo Perez, gperez(at)inia.org.uy

<http://www.iufrouuguay2011.org/>

7-8 May 2012

### Directors’ Forum: Governance of Forest Research and Education – Innovations in Participatory Management

Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

IUFRO [9.02.00](#)

**Contact:** Konstantin von Teuffel,

konstantin.teuffel(at)forst.bwl.de;

9-11 May 2012

### All-Division 9 Conference

Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

IUFRO [9.00.00](#)

**Contact:** Daniela Kleinschmit,

daniela.kleinschmit(at)sprod.slu.se;

Konstantin von Teuffel, konstantin.teuffel(at)forst.bwl.de

9-11 May 2012

### International Seminar “Assessing Forest Governance in a Context of Change”

Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

IUFRO [9.05.00](#)

**Contact:** Gérard Buttoud, gerard.buttoud(at)hotmail.fr

17-20 May 2012

### MEDINSECT 3

Hammamet, Tunisia

IUFRO [7.03.14](#)

**NOTE:** The meeting has been postponed to 17-20 May 2012.

**Contact:** François Lieutier,  
francois.lieutier(at)univ-orleans.fr

10-16 Jun 2012

### Alien Invasive Species and International Trade

Tokyo, Japan

IUFRO [7.03.12](#)

**NOTE:** The WP meeting has been postponed to June 2012.

**Contact:** Kenji Fukuda, fukuda(at)k.u-tokyo.ac.jp

<http://hyoka.nenv.k.u-tokyo.ac.jp/alien.htm>

25-30 Jun 2012

### 1st IUFRO-FORNESSA Regional Congress: Forests and Trees Serving the People of Africa and the World

Nairobi, Kenya

**Contact:** Joe Cobbinah, jacobbinah(at)csir-forig.org.gh

<http://fornis.net/content/first-iufro-fornessa-regional-congress>

26-30 Jun 2012

### Int’l Conference on New Frontiers of Forest Economics

Zurich, Switzerland

IUFRO [9.04.00](#)

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

<http://www.neffe.ch/>

8-13 Jul 2012

### IUFRO All-Division 5 Conference

Estoril, Portugal

IUFRO 5.00.00 and the Technical University of Lisbon

**Contact:** Pekka Saranpää, Pekka.Saranpaa(at)metla.fi

<http://www.iufro2012.org/>

30 Jul-3 Aug 2012

### 12th International IUFRO Wood Drying Conference

Belém, Brazil

IUFRO [5.04.06](#)

**Contact:** Diego Elustondo,

diego.elustondo(at)fpinnovations.ca

<http://www.wdc2012.com/site/>

21-25 May 2012

### Int’l Conference on Seed Orchards and Breeding Theory

Egirdir, Turkey

IUFRO [2.02.13](#); [2.04.02](#); [2.09.01](#)

**Contact:** Nebi Bilir, nebibilir(at)orman.sdu.edu.tr

<http://atabeymyo.sdu.edu.tr/seedconference/>

12-16 Nov 2012

### 8th IUFRO Int’l Conference on Uneven-aged Silviculture

Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand

IUFRO [1.05.00](#)

**Contact:** Gary Kerr, gary.kerr(at)forestry.gsi.gov.uk

## Other Meetings

7-11 Nov 2011

### Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week

Beijing, China

IUFRO will have a booth in the exhibition hall.

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/ap-forestry-week/en/>

10-13 Apr 2012

### 9th World Bamboo Congress

Antwerp, The Netherlands

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