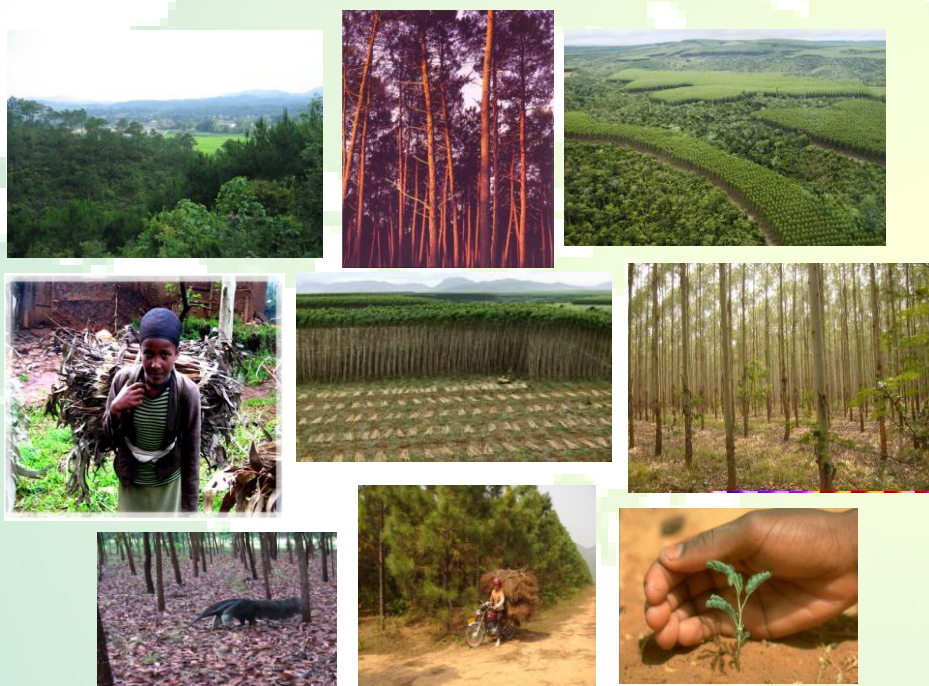




Planted Forests on the Globe Renewable Resources for the Future



3rd International Congress on Planted Forests
16-21 May 2013

Plenary meeting to be held at Estoril (Portugal)
preceded by scientific workshops in
Bordeaux (France), Dublin (Ireland),
Porto (Portugal), Bilbao (Spain) and Edinburgh (UK)

First announcement - Call for papers
(deadline 1 September 2012)



CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The world population continues to expand, more pressure than ever before is being placed on the forest resources. Planted forests, although only seven per cent of the world's forest resources, have superseded naturally regenerating forests as the principal source of industrial wood products. Demand toward forest sector is expected to increase in the next decades not only for traditional sector but also for bio-energy, biochemical and by-products. Lessening the pressure for wood production, tree planting has released natural forests to be managed for other purposes -carbon sinks, soil and water protection, conservation of biological diversity, recreation and amenity. Representing a complement, but not an alternative, to natural forests, planted forests have become increasingly important for reducing worldwide deforestation, loss of forest ecosystems and forest degradation (FAO, 2009).

Planted forests are composed of trees established through planting and/or through deliberate seeding of native or introduced species. Establishment is either through afforestation on land that until then was not classified as forest, or by reforestation of land classified as forest, for instance after a fire or a storm or following clear felling (FAO 2010).

Planted forests yield a diverse range of wood, fibre, fuel and non-wood forest products for corporate and smallholder investors pursuing commercial or subsistence purposes. They can also provide a number of social and environmental services, ranging from rehabilitation of degraded lands, combating desertification, soil and water protection, sequestering and storing carbon, recreation and landscape amenity. Planted forests conserve genetic resources and provide shelter, shade and fodder for livestock. They deliver valuable services to urban populations, particularly in arid zones, by mitigating sand-storms, preventing sand-drift and recycling waste water. Responsible management of planted forests can reduce pressures on indigenous forests for forest products and allow them to be designated for other protective and conservation purposes. They can also complement and supplement the REDD and REDD⁺ initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. As such, planted forests have multiple values, many of which cannot be provided by other types of land use.

Planted forests are long-term investments that require awareness and diligence in policy and planning, but particularly in management practices in order to avoid negative impacts. This relates to the selection of germplasm, nursery production, site preparation, establishment, tending, weeding, silviculture, protection and harvesting interventions. Unfortunately, planted forests have not always lived up to their potential. The causes for failures of planted forests in the past include inappropriate governance frameworks and insufficient application of established knowledge, technology and techniques. The lack of capacity and capability in providing enabling policies, laws, regulations, plans and technical support systems have led to controversy and poor management of planted forests. Some planted forest investments have produced land-use, social, cultural and environmental conflicts, as well as unsustainable management practices.

Two international conferences on planted forests have been held previously, in Chile in 1999 (<http://www.globalregister.co.nz/evergreen/reports/roleofforests.pdf>) and New Zealand in 2003 (www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/cli/report-nz-plantedforests-sfm.pdf). Both of these conferences highlighted the need to promote the multiple dimensions of Sustainable Forest management (SFM) in view of the social and environmental challenges of the 21st century. Since then, new research, global assessments of planted forest resources and outlook studies for wood from planted forests, best practice guidelines and many interesting cases of country applications from around the world have documented and further emphasized the global significance of planted forests. In parallel, international processes and financing mechanisms have increasingly recognized the central role of planted forests for mitigating climate changes, conserving biodiversity and combating land degradation. In contrast to these positive developments, negative social and environmental impacts of planted forests have given rise to concern.

It is therefore timely to investigate the contribution of planted forests to sustainable development in the context of global changes and to organize a Third International Congress on Planted Forests. Central topics would include the sustainability of planted forests in the context of changing climates and the future role of planted forests in environmental protection and REDD+. The aim is to address issues surrounding planted forests today, their productive, environmental and social functions and the challenges they present. The target audience includes forest scientists, policy makers, the private forestry sector and forest managers.

OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE CONGRESS

Five of the major Atlantic countries of Europe (France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, and United Kingdom) have large areas of planted forests. They will join forces under the coordination of the European Forestry Institute's Atlantic European Regional Office (EFIATLANTIC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Unión de Silvicultores del Sur de Europa (USSE) to organize this congress with potential support from EU and other countries with large estates of planted forests from around the globe.

The format of the congress will be innovative comprising two successive and complementary events over a week facilitating the transformation of research findings into the science-policy-management interface including the understanding and collaboration of the responsible organizations. Participants are invited to register for the workshop of their choice followed by the plenary meeting. Alternatively, it is possible to attend either one of the workshops or the plenary meeting. Full details may found at http://www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/2013_icpf

Five scientific satellite workshops (16-18 May 2013) will be organised in five European Atlantic cities. The scope of the workshop sessions (16-17 May) will be worldwide. Each will be followed by a field excursions (18 May) which will focus on issues discussed in the workshop, illustrated them in a national/regional context. Around 80 participants per workshop are expected, representing the scientific community, but also forestry institutions, policy makers, forest managers, and forest-based industries.

Each workshop will address a single theme of international importance. The workshops will include state of the art scientific information and country issues. Needs and experiences in policy and management practices will be discussed and synthesized for further presentation at the plenary conference.

The themes and coordinators of each satellite workshop are as follows:

- **Vulnerability and Risk Management in Planted Forests.**

Bordeaux, France (coordinator Jean-Michel Carnus)

- **Providing and Valuing Ecosystem Services in Planted Forests.**

Dublin, Ireland (coordinator Ted Farrell)

- **Economics and Trade, Markets, Profitability**

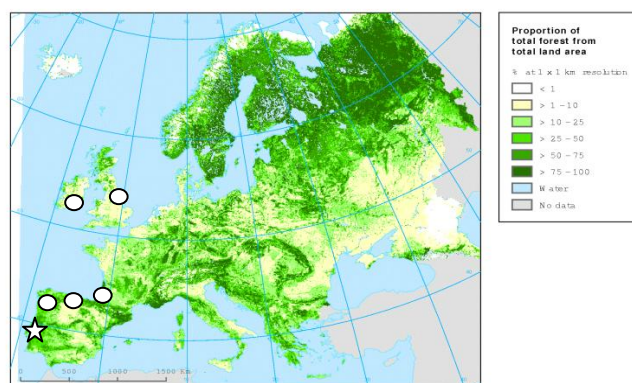
Porto, Portugal (coordinator Margarida Tomé)

- **Governance, Land Use Conflicts and Resource Management.**

Bilbao, Spain (coordinator Inazio Martinez)

- **Planted Forests for the Restoration of Forest Landscapes and Mitigation of Climate Change (incl. REDD+).**

Edinburgh, United Kingdom (coordinator Peter Freer-Smith)



The plenary conference (20-21 May 2013) in Estoril, Portugal with 300 to 400 participants expected. The programme of the plenary conference will include:

- 6 keynotes from the major regions of planted forest resources (e.g. Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania);
- 5 summary statements (one from each satellite workshop) emphasizing the specific role of planted forests in sustainable development;
- thematic sessions and policy round table;
- drafting of an official declaration geared towards policy and decision makers and final recommendations endorsed by the Congress participants;
- side events on specific topics upon request;
- social events.

Post conference meetings and side events can be arranged in association with the Congress. The plenary conference will take place around 30km from Lisbon International Airport, in Estoril (<http://www.estoril-portugal.com>) at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. The picturesque city of Estoril is a seaside resort with a number of attractive museums, restaurants, beaches, for everyone's taste! For those who may wish to come earlier and stay longer, the hotels will extend the special prices for one week before or after the congress.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE, ORGANISATION, REVIEW PROCEDURE AND PUBLICATION

- April 2012 First announcement and call for abstract
- July Second announcement and call for abstracts for scientific workshops
- 1 September Deadline for abstract submission
- November 2012 Selection of communications
- March 2013 Final programme
- April 2013 Registration closure

The **Organising Committee** is made up of representatives of *Institut Europeen de la Forêt Cultivee* IEFC (Ted Farrell), EFI (Gert-Jan Nabuurs), EFIATLANTIC (Christophe Orazio), FAO (Walter Kollert), Forest Research UK (Peter Freer-Smith), *Institut National de Recherche Agronomique* INRA (Jean-Michel Carnus), *Instituto Superior de Agronomia* ISA (Margarida Tomé), USSE (Inazio Martinez) and the national representatives. It will play a key role in drafting the final declaration, disseminate announcements and raise funds.

Members of the **Scientific Committee**, which will oversee the content of the workshops, will be announced shortly.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Sunday, 19 May will be reserved for participants' travel to the plenary conference in Portugal. Airline companies have direct daily flights to Lisbon from Bilbao; Bordeaux; Dublin and different UK airports. It is not expected that all people participating in scientific workshops and field tours would attend the plenary conference and vice versa.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATIONS

Abstracts will be submitted to efiatlantic_at_efi.int using online tool at http://www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/2013_icpf/abstract_submission/ with the venue of the author's preferred workshop. The Scientific Committee will decide whether the abstract is suitable for presentation and will recommend the most suitable satellite workshop, which may or may not accord with the author's choice.

Selected voluntary papers will be invited to give a 20 minutes talk in each satellite event. Participants will be also invited to provide key messages that will be delivered to the plenary session.

We plan to publish the workshops papers in national or international forestry journals. Those presented at the plenary and the final declaration will be published in an edition of EFI or FAO working paper series (e.g. the Planted Forests Working Paper Series). Additionally, FAO will produce a book of abstracts, which will be made available as a CD to all participants and available on the internet.

For more information

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