



International Conference **MANAGING FORESTS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: CAN SPRUCE FORESTS SHOW THE WAY?**

8-11 October 2012 - Edinburgh, Scotland
Second Announcement

*Hosted by IUFRO Working Party 1.01.08 - Ecology and Silviculture of Spruces;
co-hosted by the EU Interreg Project ForestClim*

THE CHALLENGE

The ongoing dialogue around ecosystem services (ES) and their value to society presents forest managers with the major challenge of describing, assessing, and delivering the various benefits that forest ecosystems provide. These benefits will vary with different types of forest ecosystem and the ways in which they are managed. One ecosystem of major importance in the northern Hemisphere comprises those forests dominated by spruce species. Spruces occur in both natural forest systems (e.g. in North West America, Europe, North East Asia) and plantation forests (e.g. the British Isles, Western Europe). These forests are important sources of timber, yet can also provide a wide range of other ES such as biodiversity, recreation, water quality, carbon sequestration, and landscape. Planning and implementing multifunctional forest management in spruce dominated forests is challenging because of the trade-offs and synergies between ES. There is a lack of understanding of appropriate silvicultural and funding measures that will enhance or sustain the provision of different services yet maintain forest resilience in the face of projected climate change and allow for the impacts of biotic and abiotic risks.

OUR RESPONSE

Spruce-dominated forests will be examined as a 'model' system to evaluate concepts capable of application across a much wider range of forest ecosystems. This meeting will enable researchers, practitioners and policymakers to present and discuss findings on how best to translate the concepts promulgated by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) and successor documents into strategic, tactical and operational management regimes that will help adapt forests to meet changes in climate and in societal demands. For example, the findings will illustrate the possibilities of finding more resilient and integrated ways of managing forest ecosystems for an uncertain future which achieve a balance between wood production and provision of other ecosystem services.

FORMAT

The conference will involve presentations by a number of invited keynote speakers as well as voluntary contributions, including parallel sessions where appropriate. There will be poster sessions and fora for discussion to ensure maximum exchange of views. There will be an all-day field trip to spruce dominated plantation forests in Scotland to illustrate and discuss the practical issues involved in multifunctional management for provision of ecosystem services.

CONFERENCE THEMES

The conference will address topics relevant to the provision of ecosystem services from spruce dominated forests as influenced by their ecology and management arranged around five main themes:

Theme	Possible Topics
Overview of forests, their management and ES	Ecosystem assessment and forests; Trends in multifunctional management of forests
Ecology and silviculture of spruce forests in different parts of the world	Spruce forest dynamics; Physiology and ecology of spruce species and forests; Continuous cover forestry in spruce forests; Mixtures or monocultures in spruce forests;
Spruce forest management and provision of specific ES	Biodiversity; Social benefits; Changing silviculture and timber quality and yield; Managing forests for carbon; Water quality, yields and flows from forests; Public perception of and community engagement with forests Provision of Non Timber Forest Products
Risks and climate change in relation to management of spruce forests for ES	Biotic and abiotic risks in spruce forests; Genetics in adapting spruce forests to climate change; Silvicultural measures to increase resilience to climate change Perception of risks and adaptive management
Management strategies for delivering ES in spruce forest landscapes	Economic aspects of multifunctional management; Funding supply of ES from forests Decision support tools, models and performance measures; Embedding an ecosystem approach in decision making Quantifying synergies and trade-offs in provision of ES Practical experience of managing spruce forests to sustain ES

Selected contributions from the meeting will be invited for submission to a special issue of the international forest science journal *Forestry* (<http://forestry.oxfordjournals.org/>), subject to the normal peer review processes.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Keynote addresses will be given by a number of distinguished international scientists and forest managers including:

Ian Bateman - University of East Anglia, UK;
Chris Quine - Forest Research, UK;
Phil Comeau - University of Alberta, Canada;
John Grace - University of Edinburgh, UK;
Barry Gardiner - INRA, Bordeaux, France;
Steve Woodward - University of Aberdeen, UK;
Kristina Blennow - SLU, Sweden;
Manfred Lexer - BOKU, Vienna, Austria;
Graham Gill - Forestry Commission, Kielder, UK.

We hope to add other speakers in the next months - please watch the conference website for details.

LOCATION

The conference will be held at Heriot-Watt University on the western outskirts of Edinburgh, about 20 minutes from the city centre and 15 minutes from the airport. Accommodation can be booked at Heriot-Watt University or in the many hotels and guest houses in Edinburgh city centre. Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland and a UNESCO World Heritage Site: - well known attractions include Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Mile, Holyrood Palace and The National Gallery of Scotland. (www.visitscotland.com).

CONFERENCE PRICE

The indicative price for the meeting is about £250. This includes conference registration, the field trip, coffees, lunches and other refreshments during the day, and the conference dinner. It does not include the cost of accommodation which can be arranged either through Heriot Watt University or booked at the hotels and guest houses in the city centre (see Edinburgh tourism website - www.edinburgh.org)

*Day registration may be available nearer the event.

OUTLINE CONFERENCE TIMELINE

• 15 December 2011	Opening of invitation for submission of abstracts for oral presentations and posters. Opening of Early Bird registration
• 15 March 2012	Closure of submission of abstracts
• 15 April 2012	Notification of acceptance of abstracts
• 15 May 2012	Closure of Early Bird registration
• 31 August 2012	Closure of registration

Further information, including the booking form, will be posted on the conference website (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/iufro2012>) in due course.

Organizing committee

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Scientific committee

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