Over the past 50 years, deforestation of tropical forests has increased at such an alarming rate that the long term sustainability of these valuable resources is in question. The loss of one of the richest and most ecologically important ecosystems in the world has become a major international concern. Uncontrolled harvesting, including over harvesting and poor practices, has now been recognized as an important cause of forest degradation and deforestation. However, sustainable forest management is recognized as a major tool to preserve continuous and large area of forests. Sustainability is indeed central to conservation efforts in “working” landscapes where natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and maintenance of ecosystem goods and services are shared priorities. In tropical forests from which scattered trees of marketable species are harvested selectively for their timber, attainment of the goal of sustainable management should include maintenance of the full range of ecosystem goods and services and biodiversity as well as meeting the criterion of non-diminishing timber yields. After more than 50 years of tropical silviculture research carried out in the major forested regions of the world, and in the framework of the International Year of Forests, Cirad, CIFOR and Ecofor are organizing an international conference under the auspices of IUFRO (Division 1.02.00 Tropical and Subtropical Silviculture; Division 3.07.00 Forest operations in the tropics; Division 8.02.00 Forest Biodiversity). The conference has the following objectives:

1. To examine the current state-of-art in tropical silviculture.
2. To refine our knowledge on the impact of silvicultural practices on forest dynamics and species diversity.
3. To explore how new, or locally developed, silvicultural approaches can complement those commonly applied for timber production.
4. To reflect on the adequacy of current silvicultural approaches to contribute to long-term sustainability—what modifications might be necessary, and how might these be implemented.
5. To define research priorities in forest ecology and silviculture for better conservation of tropical forests in the context of global policy instruments such as REDD and other investment funds for mitigating climate change.

Important information

Call for abstracts                                          15 February 2011
Deadline for abstract submission                        30 April 2011
Notification of paper acceptance                        31 July 2011
Early registration fee (includes lunches) until 9 September 2011 150 €
Late registration fee after 14 October 2011              200 €

Contacts: Plinio Sist, sist@cirad.fr
Website of the conference to be active very soon

Scientific Committee:
Sylvie Gourlet-Fleury Cirad (IUFRO division 1)
Manuel Guariguata CIFOR
Robert Nasi CIFOR (IUFRO Division 1)
John Parrotta, USFS (IUFRO division 8)
Jean-Luc Peyron Ecofor
Plinio Sist Cirad (IUFRO divisions 1 and 3)
Program

Research priorities in tropical silviculture: towards new paradigms?
Montpellier, France, 15-18 November 2011

After more than 50 years of tropical silviculture research carried out in the major forested regions of the world, and in the framework of the International Year of Forests, Cirad, CIFOR and Ecofor are organizing an international conference in Montpellier under the auspices of IUFRO (Division 1.02.00 Tropical and Subtropical Silviculture; Division 3.07.00 Forest operations in the tropics) ; and Division 8.02.00 Forest Biodiversity).

Day 1. Plenary Session 1. Tropical Silviculture: State of the art
9h-10h. Presentations of the Conference and its objectives
10h-10h30. Coffee break
10h30-12h00. Silviculture of Timbers (6 oral presentations)
12h00-12h30. Discussion
12h30-14h00. Lunch
14h00-15h30. Non Timber forest Products and other forest uses (6 oral presentations)
15h00-16h00. Discussion
16h00-17h30. Conclusions of Day 1

Day 2. Plenary Session 2. Assessing and minimizing the ecological and Socio-economical Impacts of Silviculture: lessons learned and ways forward
8h30-10h30. Ecological Impacts
8h30-10h00. Oral presentations (6)
10h00-10h30. Discussion
10h30-11h. Coffee Break
11h-13h00 Impact on carbon dynamics
11h00-12h30. Oral Presentations (6)
12h30-13h00. Discussion
13h00-14h00. Lunch
14h-16h00. Social Impacts
14h00-15h30. Oral Presentations (6)
15h30-16h00. Discussion
16h00-16h30. Coffee break
16h30-18h30. Economic Impacts
16h00-17h30. Oral Presentations (6)
17h30-18h00. Discussion
18h00-18h30. Conclusions

Day 3. Re-organization of IUFRO Research Group and Parallel Sessions
8h30-10h00. Re-organization of IUFRO’s Research Group on tropical and subtropical silviculture
10h00-10h30. Coffee Break
10h30-12h30. Parallel sessions
12h30-14h00. Lunch
14h00-16h00. Parallel sessions
16h00-16h30. Coffee break
16h30-17h30. Organization of the working groups for day 4

Day 4. Research Priorities
09h00-12h30. Working Group sessions
12h30-14h00. Lunch
14h00-16h00. Restitution of the working groups
16h00-16h30. Coffee Break
16h30-17h30. Presentation of conclusions and conference closing

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1 Amazon, Congo Basin and SE Asia, 3 general presentations and 3 representative case study of each region (15 minutes)
2 Stand dynamics, biodiversity and fauna