

FOREST PRODUCTS AND IUFRO



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ISSUES

- The impact of forest products on human activities is not widely recognized
- Large areas of the world rely on forests and forest products for:
 - Food and Shelter
 - Construction Materials, Paper and Packaging products
 - Energy
 - Recreation
- Forest loss (5-10 million ha/year natural forests) has major societal, diversity and environmental implications
- Need to maintain and increase the amount and value of forest products to satisfy population growth – particularly in the tropics
- IUFRO has important role in maintaining awareness of forests



CHALLENGES – FOREST PRODUCTS

- In the face of global forest loss:
 - Keeping pace with demand for huge international consumption of forest products
 - Maintaining knowledge of traditional forest uses, including fuel and non-wood forest products (socio-economic equity)
 - Mitigating climate change through adaption strategies
 - Conserving soil and water
 - Reversing desertification
 - Extending “carbon capture” in wood products
 - Developing biofuels to replace fossil fuels
 - Increasing public support for forestry activities



TOPICS FOR IUFRO (Division 5)

- Higher yields of good quality wood
 - Species selection
 - Breeding
 - Silviculture
- Increasing efficiency of utilisation
 - Better processing of small logs
 - Less emissions and water use
 - Use of residues
 - Recycling
- **Developing high performance products**
 - **Smart design**
 - **Composite products**
 - **Nanotechnology**
 - **Industrial Biotechnology**
- **Extending product life cycles**
 - **Design**
 - **New “green” wood protection**
- Promotion of non-timber forest products for Food, Crafts and Agroforestry
- Climate Change
 - **Energy from woody biomass**
 - Carbon sequestration
- Education
 - Multiple uses of forests for materials, non-forest products and recreation



CHALLENGES FOR IUFRO

- Ensuring public access to forest knowledge
- Promoting trees and wood products as environmentally beneficial - Work with the media!
- Maintaining credibility with politicians and policymakers and the general public
- Encouraging cross-Divisional activities
- Supporting inter-organization activities
- Finding more ways of including developing countries
- Ensuring communication with Public Relations staff in member organizations

