

International  
**FORESTRY  
STUDENTS'**  
ASSOCIATION



## Biodiversity in the Forest

The International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) was established in 1990 and is a world-wide organization of local and national associations of forestry students.

At present, IFSA represents 68 member associations in 47 countries. IFSA also admits consulting, supporting and honorary members.

IFSA's vision is for global cooperation among students of forest sciences in order to broaden knowledge and understanding to achieve a sustainable future for our forests, and to provide a voice for youth in international forest policy processes.

For more information visit our website

Homepage: [www.ifsa.net](http://www.ifsa.net)

# Editorial

---



Rémy  
Picavet

Hi everybody !

Welcome in this 49<sup>th</sup> issue of IFSA-News!

Allready the last issue for the 2008-2009 IFSA year.  
The theme of this issue is:

## BIODIVERSITY IN THE FOREST

This newspaper concludes for me one year of work inside Promotion and Publication Commission. Thanks to all who helped during this year and good luck for the next ones. As long as there are people to write inside it, this newspaper should live !

Have a nice reading & see you on the forum :  
[www.ifsa.net/forum](http://www.ifsa.net/forum) !

### In This Issue:

Page 04 ..... Editorial  
Page 05 ..... President's Corner  
Page 05 ..... Forestry Education in Africa  
Page 09 ..... Biodiversity and Peoples from the Amazonian Rain Forest  
Page 10 ..... Nature Conservation in Czech Republic  
Page 12 ..... 23rd Czech Versatility Meeting  
Page 13 ..... Agroforestry Meeting in Nancy, France



# President's corner

Dear IFSA members all over the world!



## Forestry Education in Africa - Northern Africa Regional Meeting report

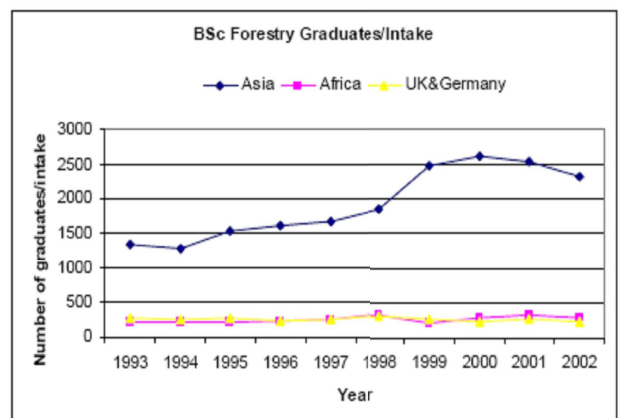
**Tolulope DARAMOLA**  
Northern African Regional Representative  
Federal University of Technology Akure, Ondo state Nigeria.  
t.daramola@yahoo.com

The decline can be attributed to failure to adequately respond to rapidly changing social,

### Global Trend in Forestry Education

Organised forestry education began in Europe many centuries ago till the late 19th century, when the forest played important role in the economies of most countries, the forestry profession and thus, forestry education boomed. However, forestry education has been undergoing a steady decline as evidenced by the 30% global reduction in enrolment into forestry education and training

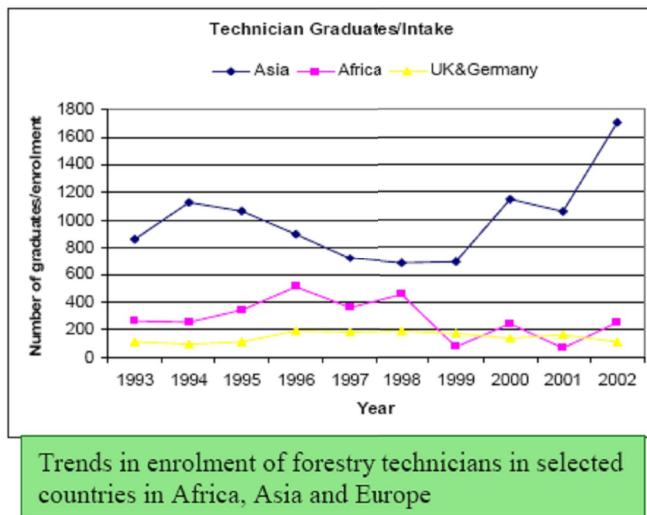
programmes. Many forestry Departments and technician schools have either closed down or have vastly reduced enrolment. Enrolments in forestry professional and technician training in Europe and Africa have declined substantially since 1993 (Shown on the graphics).



Trends in enrolment of forestry graduates in selected countries in Africa, Asia and Europe

The combined image of incompetent governance and illegal actions may be the drivers in discouraging training and education in forestry. Though there is a slight increase in enrolment in Asia, it does not compensate for the massive decline worldwide.

- Nyabyeya Forestry College in Uganda (1931);
- Olmotonyi Forestry Training School in Tanzania (1936);
- Ivory Coast Forestry School (1938);
- School of Forestry, Nigeria, 1948;
- Technical Forestry School in Cameroon (1949)



### Development of Forestry Education in Africa

The inception of forestry education in Africa was patterned after the European models. It started with the German “master schools” idea (a training based on apprenticeship) and developed to forestry schools where more formal education could be given. Formal forestry education in Africa can be traced back to setting up of national forestry departments in the colonial era between the 1920s and 1930s. The conceptual framework was a vibrant public forestry sector, conserving and managing forests to feed into public and private wood and fibre industries. With this in mind, early forestry education in Africa was focused to training vocational workers and technical staff. Early examples of technical schools in Africa include:

expatriate staff. During this period, professional trainings was undertaken in Europe, Australia and North America.

The independence wave that swept through the continent in the early 1960s led to a need to find national staff to replace expatriates leaving forestry service. Professional degree training in Africa began in the 1950s

#### Some early forestry professional schools includes:

- College of Forestry, Monrovia Liberia (1959)
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria (1963)
- Makerere University, Uganda (1970)
- University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (1973)
- University of Daschang, Cameroon (1975)
- L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique Cote d'Ivoire, 1975

From these few early regional schools, forestry education grew

phenomenally in many African countries from the late 1970s through to the early 1990s. At the early stage, the curricula for professional forestry put much emphasis on biophysical aspects of timber production and did not reflect on the broader values expected of the profession, thus early forestry education in this placed greater emphasis placed on the biological and technical aspect and much less on the social aspect.

The training period ranged from 2-3 years for certificate and diploma programmes and 4-5 years for B.Sc degree programmes, 1.5-3 years for M.Sc programme and 3 years for PhD programme. Initially, the main goal of establishing forestry schools in Africa was to train foresters for national forest service to be absorbed in a hierarchical structure. The saturation of national forestry service meant graduates cannot be absorbed and consequently, poor job prospects for forestry graduates. Most forestry Departments in African Institutions offer programmes leading to the award of degrees to PhD level.

The number of student enrolment declined between the 1980s and 1990s and increased slightly afterwards. The increase in numbers in recent years is attributed to an increase in the number of students graduating from high school, and increased government support of students to obtain Bachelors degrees in various fields. It is quite obvious that the ratio of male to female students is quite high with the number of female students ranging between 0 and 6. Thus, the forestry professional is male dominated



## Forestry Education in Nigeria: Past and Present

- Nigerian professional forester rarely exist before 1960.
- Only 27 of 82 professional foresters in the country as at then were Nigerians.
- Need for home-grown foresters was imperative as those trained abroad could not manage Tropical ecosystems successfully.
- Forestry education was and still pivotal to national development.
- Full-fledge forestry education began in Ibadan by 1963.
- Forestry is now offered by Numbers of Universities, Colleges and Vocational training in Nigeria.

University of Ibadan was the first university to offer forestry education in Nigeria. It was at a time the regional training centre in forestry. Students from other African Countries were also trained at UI. Virtually all home-grown foresters before 1977 graduated from UI. Recent educational revolution has cause the establishment of forestry in many institutions. Factors affecting the Choice of Forestry as a Career in the Nigerian Universities

"Interest" is the foremost of all the factors guiding a choice of career. This interest is built on some other factors, including:

- Fore-knowledge of the course.
- Public perception/ popularity of the course.
- Professionalism
- Status/ impact of role-models

It's however noted that:

-> Forestry is under-represented in secondary school curriculum and teachers seldom mention it to students

-> Public awareness of the course is very low.  
-> Small to medium scale enterprises in forestry have not gained much popularity.

### Under-representation of forestry in secondary school curriculum

-> Students were not well-informed about forestry in their respective secondary schools  
-> Many were not opportune to hear anything about forestry prior to their admission to the field.

-> Prospects of the course is rarely discussed wherever it is mentioned.  
-> People rather discuss the potentials of courses like medicine, pharmacy, engineering and so on in career talks.  
-> Students enrolled into forestry programme often want to change to other disciplines.  
-> Lack of adequate information about forestry at the secondary school level impede many students from choosing forestry as a career of choice.

### Public perception/ popularity of forestry profession

-> Many people (including the elites) are ignorant of the forestry profession.  
-> The public misconstrue forestry as a profession to mean lesser than what the profession actually entails  
-> Professional foresters are often confused for forest guards and timber contractors.  
-> They sometimes refer to



*NARM participants in Nigeria*

forest produce checkpoint officers as professional foresters.  
-> Such field officers portray not forestry as a profession or discipline, rather as a money touting group of officers.  
-> Their ill-practices might be a discouraging factors for many to choose the profession.  
-> The public is, however, not aware of any existing relationship between the environment, agricultural production and forestry

### Limitations/Constraints

-> African forestry institutions and Departments have the tendency to be too theoretical and there is often limited exposure to field experience.  
-> The biggest constraint facing the forestry schools and Departments is continuing to run a robust training and research programme amidst dwindling national and donor funding resources.

-> Research funding in most forestry institutions in Africa is either totally lacking from whatever sources tends to be small and restricted to actual research project work and not to the purchase of expensive equipments like vehicles or major lab instruments.

-> The capital cost of big equipments will have to be met by government funding (which is extremely limited in all SSA) and through major collaborative donor support programmes.

-> This will also require active linkages between forestry education, the national forestry service and the NGO sector.

Collaborative arrangements with other national and international organisations must be pursued more vigorously than in the past.

-> Declining student numbers

-> Capacity constraints to programme delivery

### **Future Directions**

There is urgent need to review of curricula in many forestry Departments in African Universities. To capture a “fast paced and dynamically” evolving forestry situation. The time for forestry academia and other key stakeholders to better inform the situation could not be more urgently needed to address the social needs of the society and produce graduates with good job prospects and meet the needs of the wider society. There must be connection between forestry schools producing manpower and national forestry agencies charged with implementation

of forestry programmes. Often, there is no national policy to guide forestry education vis-à-vis the national forest sector.

There is urgent need to create awareness and change the negative perception of the public about the forestry profession. If this is effectively done, enrolment may increase

Investments in infrastructures and equipment in forestry Departments/faculties must be increased substantially. Forestry education in Africa must graduate from the current heavily theoretical inclination to include much of practical training

### **Conclusions**

=> The temperate influence led to a rather narrow view of forestry in Africa and forestry education has correspondingly developed in the same direction. Consequently, African forestry graduates have contributed little in transforming livelihoods of small-scale landholders.

=> Targeting forestry training to public sector employment was short sighted, it has created unsustainable forestry educational programmes in most African countries.

=> Forest research and teaching at professional, technical and vocational levels is undermined by lack of resources. In fact, the issue is not so much the content of the curriculum but the delivery process.

=> The importance of getting the right balance between theory and practice cannot

be overemphasised - which means investment not only in facilities on campus but also availability of forest field facilities to offer students adequate exposure to field conditions.

=> In the last two decades, declining student enrolment in forestry education, especially at the technical level, has emerged, which is due to low investments in forestry education, poor perception of forestry profession, poor job prospects, etc.

=> Student enrolments are still largely in favour of males despite international push for gender balance, though this imbalance is not in any way unique to Africa.

=> The current student enrolment levels cannot justify the heavy infrastructure and running costs of the forestry programmes. This is critical in view of increasingly dismal national funding allocations to universities.

=> Unless forestry education is repackaged to make it more competitive in terms of student enrolment and future career options, many institutions will be forced to cutback heavily or close down forestry as is already happening among technical level institutions and Universities in more advanced countries.

=> Massive public enlightenment on forestry education and its prospects is needed.

=> The need to re-orientate and re-direct people's focus is highly imperative for forestry education to be relevant in the future of Africa.

**How to keep in touch with IFSA activities ?**

*Visit IFSA forum at : [www.ifsa.net/forum](http://www.ifsa.net/forum)*

# Biodiversity and Peoples from the Amazon rain forest

**Alonso Pérez Ojeda Del Arco**

Forestry engineering student -Universidad Nacional Agraria  
La Molina (Lima, Peru)  
alonsop30@hotmail.com

## A look inside cosmovisions of indigenous groups

The Amazon is an ecological-cultural huge complex where several peoples of different languages have developed for thousands of years a symbolic very intimate speech with the environment that surrounds them. The indigenous cultures of the Amazon have own notions about dynamics of life and forest and that's why they offer us different visions due to the fact that they are interested in multiple aspects of these realities. (Pérez, A. & Pérez, M. 2007)

The tropical forest, besides being a sink of natural resources for their people, is the space in which there are constructed their beliefs, myths, learnings and projects of life. The cosmovision arises hereby, patent and simultaneously latently, turning this way into a prop of all the activities of these peoples.

The Shuar people from the Jibaro family language for example, which are located geographically in the high jungle and the forests of mist (Peru-Ecuador), consider to the waterfalls and head-waters of river sacred places, where they must come from time to time to obtain "the vision". This is the acquisition of wisdom by means of diets and periods of isolation in which not only knowledge and answers are obtained for the problems of day after day but also one helps to support the balance with their environment by means of the development of the conscience. They look for these sacred places because they are considered to be pristine and likewise habitual corridors where the animals like jaguar, tapir, deer, peccaries, etc (of which they learn and acquire the vision) approach to drink water, then, the meeting

with them is more than sure.

Thus, the link among the culture and the environment is evident for the indigenous peoples and reflects the responsibility for conservation of the traditional lands for their use for the future generations.

## Threats ¿who owns the land?

Regrettably, conservation of the Amazonian forests and with them the biological and cultural diversity, faces today numerous threats.

It is well known that deforestation is generating annually the loss of million hectares of natural forest. The illegal loggers, who often exploit the indigenous people, cuts down the forest at the passive look of the government, which does not give itself technically and economically supplies to protect at least in an efficient way his protected areas.

The overlapping for exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in titled lands of the indigenous groups, ancient lands that they own, are given in a frequent way.

According to a recent study 72 percent of the Peruvian Amazon is already under concession to oil and gas companies. 56 of the 64 blocks in the country have been concessioned since 2003 and some overlap lands titled to isolated indigenous groups, including "uncontacted" tribes.

## The role of the indigenous groups in the conservation of biodiversity

"Those who are able to live, have to be able to live and coexist." Said Nahwiri, a native settler of the indigenous Shawi group located in Peru.

The role that the Amazonian societies play is fundamental for the conservation of the biodiversity. This due to the fact that they are the first social actors that are involved with the forest. There are experiences about management of the resources by the Amazonian peoples, generally, within or near the natural protected areas by the state or titled lands. These experiences such as forest certification, extraction and marketing of non-timber forest products, fauna management, and ecotourism plans; if they are imitated they might reduce the pressure of hunting and fishing on the game and on the primary forests.

In Peru, several national parks such as Cordillera Azul, Yanachaga Chemillen, Manu, and others join members of indigenous peoples near the establishment of the natural area to be part of volunteer rangers and sustainable development programs. Based in their knowledge of the zone, their skills, and their commitment with the forest; their home. These programs look for more participant active work from the people who are located in the buffer zones of natural areas and also to keep without pressure the biodiversity in those hot spots of conservation.

Hopefully, the policy leaders will adopt a framework that supports development in the Amazon by indigenous peoples heritage truly recognized like a key in conservation programs.

## References

- Pérez-Ojeda Del Arco, A. & Pérez-Ojeda Del Arco, M. 2007. The Forest, importance in the construction of Amazonian cosmovisions. Revista Forestal Xilema. UNALM-Peru, Pages 26-28.
- La Torre-Cuadros, MA. 2006. Traditional ecological knowledge. Cycle of chats in ethnobiology's topics.
- www.mongabay.com



# Nature Conservation in Czech Republic

**Pavlina Pancova Simkova**

Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry Brno -  
Czech Republic

Phs0504@simpanz.com, xsimkov0@node.mendelu.cz

Total area of protected sites is 752.3 thousand ha (28.4% of CZ forest cover is included in the sites with certain decree of protection) (Report of the state of forest and forestry in the Czech Republic 2007). The biggest portion of the protected sites is recognized as forest site. The forest cover is high especially in the national parks and national nature reserves.

500/2004 (Code of Administrative Procedure), Act No. 200/1990 (on offences), Act No. 106/1999 (on free access to information) and Act No. 123/1998 (on access to environmental information). Each protected area and sites has to have its management plan. Those are approved by the Ministry of Environment (for NP, PLA, NNR and NNM). The Forests

System, implementation of practical measures to conserve nature and to protect landscape and administration of national subsidy programmes as well as some European Community funds serving to conserve nature and to protect landscape. Its mission is to raise awareness, communication and education in nature conservation and landscape protection; international cooperation in nature conservation and landscape protection. ANCLP is a Scientific Authority of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in the Czech Republic.

## State Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection Programme of the Czech Republic

The programme was adopted in 1998 and Czech Republic joined more than 80 countries all over the world which according to the UN Environment

Programme have passed similar strategies aimed at nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

The Constitution of the Czech Republic stipulates that: the State care about considerate use of natural resources and nature conservation, the protection of nature and the landscape are based on a up-to-date approach, provide a main legislative framework for appropriate nature and landscape management.

## Large size specially protected regions

National Parks are naturally and ecologically most valuable areas that are of a larger territory. NPs are divided into three zones according to level of conservation.

Category	Large area specially protected regions		Small size specially protected localities			
	National parks (NP)	Protected Landscape regions (PLA)	National Nature Reserves (NNR)	Natural Reserves (NR)	National Nature Monuments (NNM)	Nature monuments (NM)
Number	4	25	112	780	105	1195
Area (1 000 ha)	119,5	1086,7	28,7	36,8	2,8	27,4
% of total CZ	1,52	13,78	0,36	0,47	0,04	0,35
Forest area (1 000 ha)	104,0	588, 5	23,1	16,1	1,7	19,0
Forest coverage (%)	87	54	81	44	59	70

Source: Ministry of Environment, Report of the state of environment in the Czech Republic 2007

## Legal base

The most important for nature conservation and protecting biodiversity is Act 114/1992 (Nature and Landscape Protection ensures territorial protection in the Czech Republic). Act No. 115/2000 (Providing compensation of damages caused by selected specially protected animals) deals with the financial compensations of the land owners. There are also several acts related to the nature conservation, which are focused on the specific issues: Act No. 100/2004 (Protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein and on further measures for protection of these species and on amendment of several acts (Act on trade in endangered species CITES), Act No.

in the NP, I. Zone of PLA have special statute and are considered as Special purpose forest.

Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (ANCLP) of the Czech Republic The ANCLP is a governmental body established by the Ministry of the Environment in 1995. Main aim of ANCLP is to protect and conserve nature and landscape and is also responsible for monitoring the status, changes and trends in selected habitats and populations of the endangered, specially protected wildlife species, administration of the Nature Conservancy Central Register, design, development and management of the Nature Conservancy Information

These NP were established: Krkonoše (Giant Mountains), Sumava (Bohemian Forest), Podýjí (Thaya River Valley) and České Svýcarsko (Czech Switzerland). Their administration is directly under supervision of the Ministry of Environment. The specific forest management is done in the NP. It includes felling to support natural composition, reduction of introduced tree species, thinning mainly to encourage selected species and artificial regeneration of original species (Vacek et al. 2007). Main goal of forest management are protection and restoration of forest ecosystems biodiversity, restoration of forest stability in Krkonoše and in Sumava and protection of unique geomorphology of the sandstone castellated rocks and biodiversity related to specific topography in České Svýcarsko (Report of the state of environment in the Czech Republic 2007).

Protected Landscape Areas (PLA) represent the cultural landscape, influenced and for a long time managed by man. The protection is managed according to four levels of protection. The aim is protection of harmonic landscape. PLA are under supervision of the ANCLP.

#### **Small size specially protected areas**

National Nature Reserve purpose is protection of rare ecosystems on a national level.

National Nature Monument purpose is protection of one or more significant phenomena.

Nature Reserves and Nature Monuments are small territories of a regional or local significance. Their management has been ensured by PLA or NP Administrations.

#### **Territorial System of Ecological Stability**

TSES is a mutually interconnected complex of both natural and near-natural, altered ecosystems that maintain natural balance. Its main purpose is to reinforce ecological stability of the landscape by conservation or restoration of ecosystems and their mutual interconnection. TSES has three levels - supraregional, regional and local.

#### **Biocentre**

This is defined as a biotope or centre of biotopes in a landscape, which, due to its condition and scope, facilitates the existence of a natural or near-natural, altered ecosystem.

#### **Ecological corridor**

This is a territory that does not facilitate permanent or long-term existence of a significant number of organisms, but does provide for their migration between different biocentres, creating a network of isolated biocentres.

#### **Interaction element**

This is defined as a landscape segment, which, on a local level, mediates the favorable effect of basic TSES elements (biocentres

and biological corridors) on surrounding less stable landscape. Besides this, interaction elements often enable the permanent existence of certain species with limited territorial requirements (besides a range of plant species, these include some species of insects, small rodents, insectivores, birds, amphibians etc.).

The TSES plan serves as documentation for TSES projects, land consolidations and land replotting, processing of territorial planning documentation, forest management plans, water management documents and other documents regarding protection and restoration of the landscape.

#### **Sources**

Act No.114/1992

Vacek, S., Simon, J., Remeš, J., et al., 2007: Obhospodařování bohatě strukturovaných a přírodě blízkých lesů, Lesnická práce, Praha, ISBN 978-80-86386-99-7

Report of the state of forest and forestry in the Czech Republic 2007 (published January 2009)

Report of the state of environment in the Czech Republic 2007 (published January 2009)



### **Wanting to participate to the biggest forestry students' event of year 2009 ?**

*Join the International Forestry Students' Symposium in Indonesia !*

**Visit : <http://ifss09.net/>**

# 23rd Forestry Versatility - Lesnicka vsestrannost

**Pavlina Pancova Simkova**

Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry Brno -  
Czech Republic

Phs0504@simpanz.com, xsimkov0@node.mendelu.cz

The dates for 2009 were 13 April to 18 April and congratulations to all participants for completing all disciplines. The Students' Association of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry (MUAF) Brno Czech Republic welcomed representatives of 11 European forestry faculties and we enjoy company of 13 four-member forestry students' teams. All together with OC it was about 70 forestry students in one spot.

While measuring knowledge and skills in using chain saw, forest management and inventories, shooting, identification of plants, trees, insects, animals, birds, rocks, minerals and fungi, age and tracks of game and orienteering we were also able to exchange new ideas, learn from each other, gain new experiences and hopefully established new friendships. For those few days we lived not only during disciplines but also during evenings. International evening brought forestry snap-shoots from each country and we also tested some of the local foods and drinks. Although quota of Pierre de

Coubertin "The most important thing is not to win but to take part!" is also valid for 23rd Forestry Versatility, the best teams and individuals were found.

Nikola Novkovic, University of Belgrade, Serbia.

The competition took place under the patronage of the Dean of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology MUAF, associate professor Petr Horacek and under patronage of the Training Forest Enterprise Masaryk Forest Krtiny, on t



*The best teams (Finland, Poland, Hungary)  
Photo by Martin Cermak*

The final order teams: the 1st Poznan University of Life Sciences, Poland, the 2nd Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences, Finland and the 3rd University of West Hungary, Hungary and final order individuals: the 1st Wojciech Stefanski, Poznan, Poland, the 2nd Maciej Kazmierczak, Poznan, Poland and the 3rd

he occasion of 90th anniversary of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology MUAF.

Thank you to all of you whole made this event possible. We also have to mention that 24th Forestry versatility is approaching fast. See you soon.



**WFC 2009**  
XIII<sup>o</sup> World Forestry Congress  
Buenos Aires | Argentina  
18 - 25 OCTOBER 2009

International  
FORESTRY  
STUDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION  
IFSA

**Ideas to share ?**  
**Willing to improve forestry ?**  
**IFSA is raising funds to help some of you to attend the World Forestry Congress 2009. Don't miss the opportunity !**  
Information about the Congress :  
[www.ifsa.net/wfc2009.php](http://www.ifsa.net/wfc2009.php)  
Information about what you can do and how :  
<http://www.ifsa.net/forum/viewforum.php?f=67>  
Application forms - write to :  
[students.wfc@gmail.com](mailto:students.wfc@gmail.com)



# Agroforestry Meeting in Nancy, France

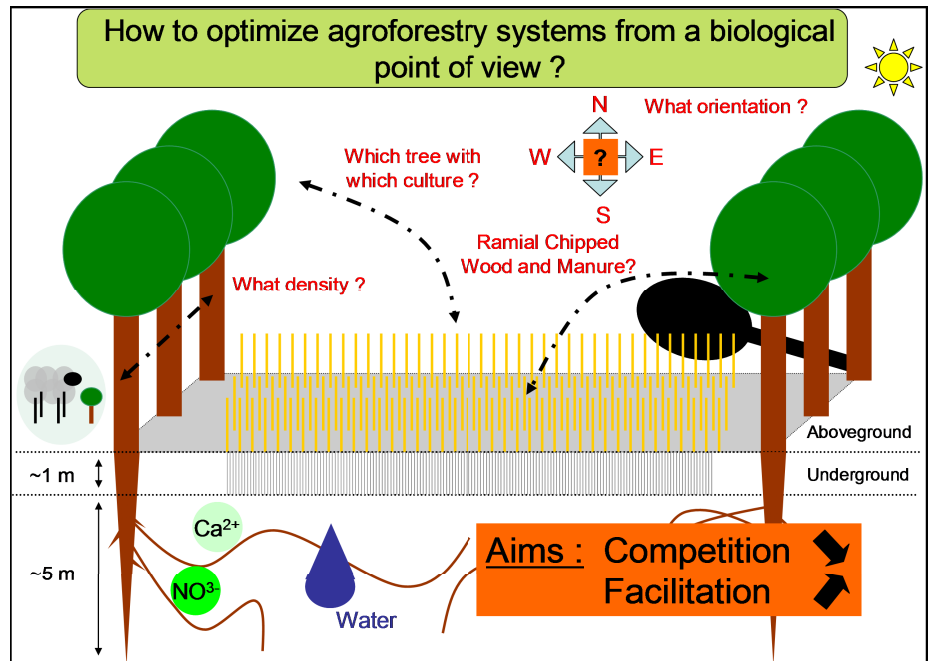
Article and pictures by LC Göttingen, Germany

From the 6th to 10th of May 2009 we, seven forestry students from the local committee (LC) of Goettingen, attended the agroforestry-symposium in Nancy, France. The French IFSA LC had organised together with the respective local association of agronomy students a great week with both informative lectures and beautiful field trips on the topic of agroforestry.

On the 6th of May we were at first kindly welcomed by a supportive speech of the director of the forestry school in Nancy. In his speech the director pointed out, why he considered our agroforestry-symposium to be especially important and why he is ready to support it as much as possible: "The discussion of complex subjects, especially in small, interdisciplinary groups, is an excellent supplement to university curriculums"!

After this motivation booster a lecture by the director of the AG Agroforst, Fabien Liagre, took place in which he presented different agroforestry systems, from grazed timber stands to walnut plantations, as well as the general use, possibilities and requirements for the establishments of agroforestry systems today.

The next speaker, Christian Dupraz, an agronomist from the french research institute for agronomy (INRA), showed particularly interesting aspects of the interactions between animals, fruits and trees. Studies concerning the shades caused by trees, the growth of the crown depending on the arrangement of the planted rows,



*The Picture shows all interactions like they were concluded by the French students at the end of the meeting*

and the growth of roots, were depicted in detail.

The Picture shows all interactions like they were concluded by the French students at the end of the meeting

In the following Mr Dupraz named some advantages of agroforestry systems e.g. Landowners will certainly find impressing that the production of biomass on an agroforestry area is 1,3 times bigger than on an area of the same size with only agriculture or sylviculture. The increased fire protection is as well a

powerful argument in the mediterranean climate.

Additionally, Mr. Dupraz explained the functionality of mathematic models, which will facilitate research in the agroforestry sector soon, because there are not enough big areas available for statistically relevant data collection.

The afternoon came to be especially interesting: Michel Etienne from the INRA in Avignon presented not only examples for the sylvipastoral management in the mediterranean region, above all he had prepared a roleplaying game on the computer, which was played for two hours in groups of each six people, to point out the attitudes and conflicts among shepherds, foresters and hunters. This game is publically available on the internet and can be sent to you via e-mail from the LC France!



*Two frenchies having fun in their roles!*

After breakfast with our hosts in the early morning of the next day, we spent about 4 ½ hours in the bus to get to the Jura-massiv, located at the Franco-Swiss border in the Département Doubs in the region Franche-Comté. Small villages with cheese production and livestock farming, surrounded by the forest of the Haut-Joux mountain range are typical for the visited region (46° 42' 50" N, 6° 9' 25" O). The

extraordinary 1200m high karst formations are located near the village of Reculfoz, where we had a wonderful sunny pick-nick.

To conserve the unique landscape and to reintegrate local farmers into silvopastoral land use management are two key goals for the local agroforestry project.

After being introduced to the main aims by the local authorities, we went to discover the terrain under surveillance of the experts: Next to the officer of the national forest agency (A. Butin) and a representative of the regional national park Haut-Jura (J-Y. Vansteelant), the poetic mayor of the community, cheese maker and farmer, also a representative of the agricultural chamber Doubs (G. Schellenberger) joined our excursion. The detailed mapping and classification of the area into 4 different types of

vegetation zones points out the mosaic structure. Areas without trees close to the



*Concerned area under a nice sun*

villages are surrounded by light forests, which, with growing altitude, get more and more dense. The first zone with a density up to 20%, has a very high level of biodiversity incl. some red-list species, caused by landscape elements like hedges, solitaire trees, ditches and erosion structures. The disadvantage of this valuable area is that

up to 70% and more are often used for grazing during the short, but dry summer as they decrease pressure of the pasture closer to the village. We even found some snow (as can be proofed on picture number 4)! Those forests seem to have grown naturally, but are the result of felling single trees of different age. Such kind of forest management is called in German „Plenterwald“. Cutting firewood is, like production of valuable wood, part of it. Forests

at a higher altitude were protected by fences and are not approved for grazing.

After another bus trip to a hostel nearby the village of Nozeroy, an officer of the national parc (J-F. Boquet) compared the different silvopastoral systems and its usage.

Finally, we had a large dinner together, concluded what had happened during the day and did some party before falling into well-earned sleep. A picture of the crazy French party fashion can be seen at the end of the article. ;-)

On Saturday we rode by bus quite early across the border to visit another silvopastoral project in the swiss Jura. We were welcomed at a wood chips factory where the mayor of the community of La

Sagne spoke some salutatory words to us.



*Excursion in the Jura mountains site*

it needs a lot of care e.g. shrub-shopping and of course the grazing of cows. Some red-list species can be found here. Those areas with a density





*Barbecue under the trees (and the coming storm !)*

Then we walked on from the wood chips factory to the sylvipastoral area, which was very lightly covered with spruce (*Picea abies*) as a main tree species. The trees were arranged in groups similar to a park. Because of the low density, the spruces were very knotty; apart from this, the stand was in a good state (red rot, peeling damage by game, mechanical damage by felling and moving could rarely be found in relation to german stands). Further species to be found were beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and several willows (*Salix*). The ground was covered with short grass.

After splitting up into small groups representatives of all different kind of stakeholders, who use and shape the landscape, gave us information about this AFS system.

A forester told us: To keep the ground fully covered with grass, the branches of felled trees have to be burned, which is not dangerous due to high precipitation and low density. Another interesting fact was that the whole felling is done by private enterprises but still no tree is to be felled without being signed by a Swiss state forester (in private forests as well).

Afterwards, an agronomist

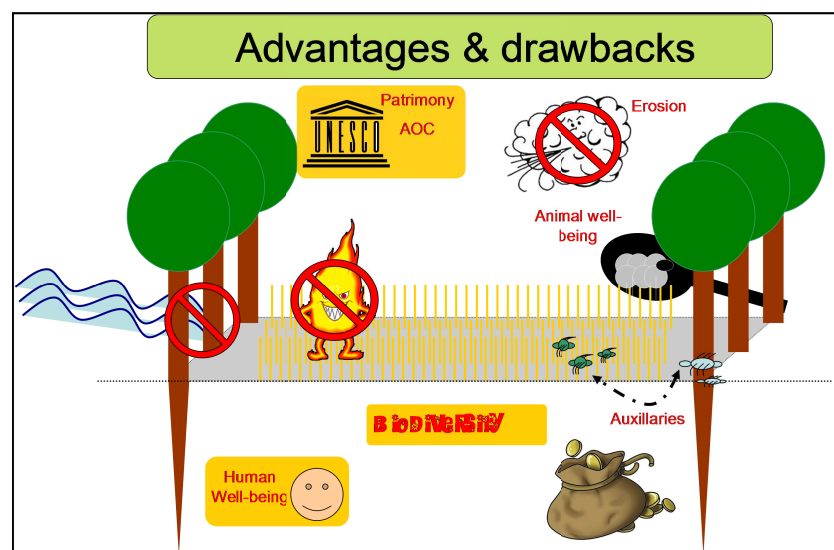
presented his view of this type of landscape: He notes a positive result as well!

Furthermore a conservationist explained his efforts to protect the hazel hen (*Bonasa bonasia*) in this

is not a problem, in spite of the high amount of light reaching the ground. There also seems to be no problem with mice, which may result from the short ground vegetation due to the continuous grazing: it doesn't offer mice any protection from predators. Because of the high precipitation, especially in the vegetation period, there can unfortunately no information be given about root competition, because the vegetation does rarely suffer from drought.

"The best thing about this field trip was to hear all actors' opinion on agroforestry and in majority a positive one!"

In the end we were invited by the community to taste some regional delicacies and in the afternoon we went back to Nancy by bus.



*Advantages and Drawbacks of an Agroforestry system*

area; he had observed only fair results because of the disturbances through many visitors and dogs, which are strongly attracted by this form of landscape. Also hiding places (the hazel hen needs dense brushwood here) are rarely found. Finally we had a talk with the forest manager about this form of landscape. What we found especially important was that the blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*)

The 9th of May was our last day and filled with lectures. We gathered in a Nancy community building to listen to five different presentations.

The first was held by a local farmer who had been applying agroforestry concepts on his own farm for several years.

As an active member of a local farmers' union he could also tell us about possible problems for the introduction of alternative agricultural systems to an agribusiness dominated by major companies.

The second lecturer had been an alumnus of Ensaia, the local agricultural college, and co-author of a book on the use of ramial chipped wood in agriculture. He told us about its positive effects on fertility, soil water and humus rates, crop health and productivity. He is also working for a company which is providing farms with ramial chipped wood.

Then we heard about land use in Spain. Two Spanish scientists introduced the Dehesa, a traditional type of landscape, which consists of sparsely wooded pastures and crops. The trees provide valuable shade and acorns which is important for pasture and crop-yield.

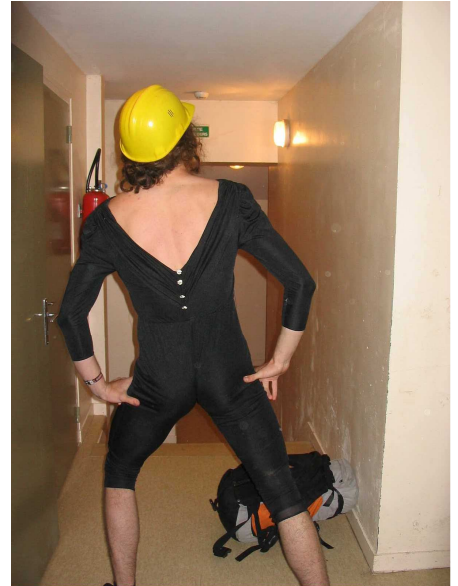
There is a quite complicated influence of trees on the Dehesas' water and fertility. A future problem will be the continuing expansion of Dehesa into formerly forested areas.

The last presentation was about Mediterranean agroforestry systems in Greece. These types of land use have a very long tradition and still play a very important role due to their stabilizing effect and woody crops like olive tree, stone pine and walnut.

Altogether it was a nice addition to concepts of agroforestry we already heard about the previous three days and also gave us a nice opportunity to lunch together and exchange ideas.

On the 10th of May, after a speech of the mayor in the most beautiful city hall of Nancy, we drove back to Goettingen: tired but content.

**Thank you LC Nancy and Ensaia Nancy for a great trip!!! We will definitely not turn our back on your next invitation! But may be we will bring helmets aswell....**





Donations can be made to the following banking account:  
(IFSA e. V. Spendenkonto)  
**Bank:** POSTBANK Stuttgart  
**Bank code:** 600 100 70  
**SWIFT:** PBNKDEFF  
**IBAN:** DE2860 0100 7000 0299 4703  
**Account:** 2 99 47 03

Published & Layout by IFSA

**Editor:** Rémy Picavet

**Little Gus Pictures:** Michaël "P4" Rivoire

**Cover picture:** *NARM session, Tolulope Daramola*

Articles should be submitted to the Editor as Email file attachments in .doc, .rtf, .odt, .txt format or as Email text.

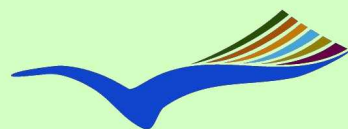
Authors are kindly asked to include pictures with their articles, as a file attachment in .tiff, .eps, .svg or .jpeg format.

**Print:** Numerical version

This issue of IFSA News has been funded with support from the European Commission. It only reflects the views of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

IFSA News is printed on recycled paper.

Printed with the support of the Youth  
in Action programme of the European  
Union



Education and Culture DG

‘Youth in Action’ Programme

International  
**FORESTRY  
STUDENTS’**  
ASSOCIATION

