

NEWS

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STUDENTS'**
ASSOCIATION



Ownership & decision taking of the world's forests

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The articles might not reflect the opinion of the editorial team.

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Inside this issue:

Editorial

| Vasja Leban |

4

President's corner

| Daniel Schraik |

5

Original paper

German forest ownership in change: environmental foundation as the new "big players"

| Kristin Jäkel |

6

Forestry today

What happened between forests and local wisdom?

| Novia Fadhilla Sari |

12

IFSA / LC's report

Winter Meeting 2013 in Slovenia

| Jaša Saražin & Vasja Leban |

16



Conference report

COP 18 Climate Conference - Experiences of the IFSA delegation in Doha, Qatar

| Christian Lankinen |

18

Theme related

Overview of latest theme related scientific papers

| Collected by Isabel Rosa |

20

Did you know?

StudyPortals - discover your study opportunities

| Sissy Böttcher |

22

Upcoming events

IFSA's & external upcoming events

| Collected by IFSA |

24

Upcoming events

Some options to learn more about forests...

| Collected by Andrea M. Vasquez Fernandez |

26

Editorial

Vasja Leban | Biotechnical faculty, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Dear IFSA News readers,

the Editorial Team is very proud to present the first IFSA News issue in 2013. Altogether with you, we've made another issue that continues the long tradition of the journal. Probably many of you didn't know that the first official issue of the IFSA News was published in 1990. And from then on the journal comes out at least twice per year. And with your help will continue to be published also hereafter.

Now let me introduce myself: my name is Vasja and I'm from Slovenia, a small country in South-east Europe with the population of two million and forest cover of 59%. My *alma mater* is the Biotechnical faculty at the University of Ljubljana. My field of interest is forest policy and ownership related issues. Furthermore, everything connected with forestry interests me as well as many other extra-curricular activities.

When I was applying on the position for the head of the IFSA News commission I've heard people mention the phrase *IFSA spirit* and I said this is worth a try. And after experiencing the Interim and the first half of the year I've discovered the real meaning and the strength of peer connection and horizontal integration. And *this* is what reflects in the IFSA spirit - at least I've perceive it in this way.

The editor's duties are various and heterogeneous. Collaboration, discourse and dialogue with other commissions and individuals is crucial for solving the majority of the obstacles. The result is a comprehensive whole, homogeneous in the view of integrity. And so it should be in the real (everyday) life. The major problem of today's issues is the lack of conversation on different vertical levels. Conflicts and problems are mostly just the consequences. It's obvious that many problems could be solved immediately if the partakers would know to converse. And for many places around the earth the described *status quo* refers also to forestry.



Photo: Vasja Leban

The theme of the issue as well of the year is *Ownership and decision taking of the world's forests*. With this extremely dynamic and changing subject we wanted to contribute in development of the debate. But not only the ownership, also the functions of forests are changing. As you'll read in the IFSA News Journal, new players in forest policy are gaining strength in the policy arena, new issues are arising and a certain and unified answer is still not on the horizon. What are the possible outcomes of these changes? How will other actors and the general public respond on changes?

You'll also see that we've made some alternations on the journal appearance. The Editorial Team hopes you'll like the new look and again encourage all to participate in IFSA News Journal making with reports/article submission.

At the end I would especially like to thanks to Isabel Rosa and Simone Herpich. Without them the IFSA News Journal wouldn't achieve such level and the new layout. Finally, dear readers I wish you many pleasures of reading the new IFSA News Journal and all the best in your personal life.

Vasja Leban

President's corner

Daniel Schraik | University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Austria

Dear readers,

it is an honour for me to introduce this first issue of the IFSA News in the year 2013 to you. Many thanks go to Vasja Leban and his team who have put fruitful efforts into gathering all the articles from you, the forestry students around the world.

The IFSA year 2012-2013 is already halfway over and there have already been loads of exciting stories worth telling, it is impossible to mention all of them. Soon, Regional IFSA Meetings will start all over the world, I am proud to see that they are set up in the Philippines, Nigeria, South Africa, Canada, Estonia and Hungary in collaboration with my own home country Austria. Also the International Forestry Students' Symposium in Spain is rapidly approaching. These events together with all the unofficial meetings form the heart of our association which is to connect students of forestry and related sciences all over the globe.

International experience is still becoming more and more important for tomorrow's specialists, I would say especially for us foresters. In each continent, each country and even in each region, forestry is different; this includes forest ecosystems, the way it is regarded by humans as well as the local education systems, to mention a few. This is said easily, however, all of you will know the vast diversity of aspects which are innate to forestry and forest sciences.

Since you've decided to take a glance in this news journal, you have probably already made up your mind about internationality in forestry and you may have found your own justifications about why involvement in international affairs is important.

Last December, when many IFSA officials met during the annual Interim to discuss current topics about the association, some talks were



Photo: Daniel Schraik

dedicated to discovering individual reasons for seeking international experience. These talks resulted in a huge variety of possibilities, and I would like to ask you to keep your own reasons in mind while you browse through these pages, because the sum of all individual motivations form the IFSA spirit, which stands for the strong bond between forestry students all over the world.

Spread this IFSA spirit, share your experiences with fellow students from home as well as from abroad, because together we can learn from each other and thus broaden our minds, or as Aristotle said, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Most sincerely,
Your dedicated President
Daniel Schraik

German forest ownership in change: environmental foundation as the new “big players”

Kristin Jäkel | Department of Forest sciences, Technische Universität Dresden

In this article the first empirical evidences by literature review of the project “Environmental foundations and organisations as forest owners: land acquisition, guiding belief-systems and management concepts” are presented. It focuses mainly on environmental foundations owning forest land in Germany.

The *Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt* (DBU) became the largest private forest owner in Germany, disposing of 60.000 ha today. Besides, there are several foundations possessing land or forest land in special. The first wave of establishing environmental foundations started in the 70s. Since the middle of the 80s there is an increasing number of established foundations for conservation who own forest land as first own empirical evidences show.

Reasons for that development are assumable the ecological movement in the 70s and the big issue “*Waldsterben*” (dying of forests) which was not only introduced into the German but also in the international scientific discourses (Robin Wood 1993, Schäfer 2012).

As a consequence of the (perceived) decline of the health state of the forests, environmental

organisations have presented own positions towards the management of forests (for example NABU 1996), known as “*Waldnutzungskonzepte*”, i.e. concepts for the use of forests (Volz 1997).

What these concepts are demanding is an extension in the use of forests, as well as a more ecological approach in forest management (see also Bode 1995, 1997 and 2000 Sturm 1999). Second, the environmental organisations claim the development and application of forest certification systems, like *Naturland* and *FSC* (c.f. BUND e.V., Greenpeace e.V., Naturland e.V., Robin Wood e.V., WWF 1996). Third, they are lobbying for the establishment of environmental foundations. In this context, the question arises if conservation organisations are fulfilling their own demands on set aside schemes on their own land. Research conducted by DBU shows that

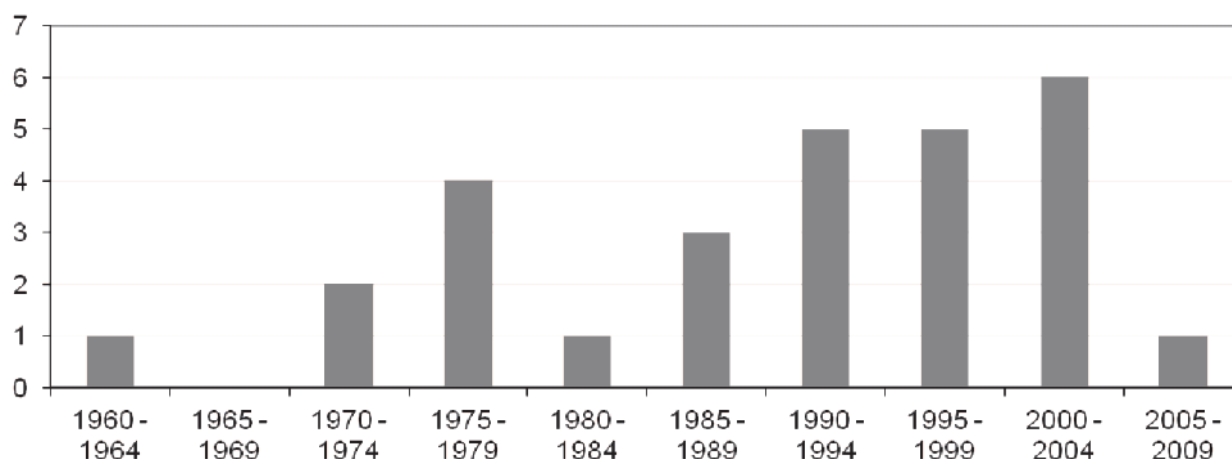


Figure 1: Number of environmental foundations with forest land established since 1960

there are over 400 institutions (not only environmental foundations) who own about 391.000 ha of land in general (DBU 2012). In addition to this, there is also a large amount of land in the property of 'pure' environmental organisations. Research of the author shows over 40 environmental foundations that own and/or possess forest land.

For example, the German nature conservation organisation NABU and its subordinate units possess over 220.000 ha. So far it can be seen as the environmental organisation with the largest property of forest land. The majority of the environmental foundations scrutinized so far dispose of less land resources, as seen in the figure 2.

Arguments of conservation organisations towards the importance to own land are:

- long-time protection as the best of all strategies (c.f. Weinzierl 2012) against use for another purpose,
- enabling active conservation work,
- ownership as a precondition for project funding,
- land use as a financial support of the organisation, for example by leasing (c.f. Butter 2012).

“Prof. Dr. Michael Succow said during a symposium of the DBU in 2012 (c.f. Dohle 2012), that he sees this process of foundations gaining land as a “milestone” for nature conservation. It is for him the only way to secure the functions of ecosystems. The symposium was supposed to be the initial spark of a ‘national trust’ movement for Germany. This is just another step towards a further cultivated conservation network.”

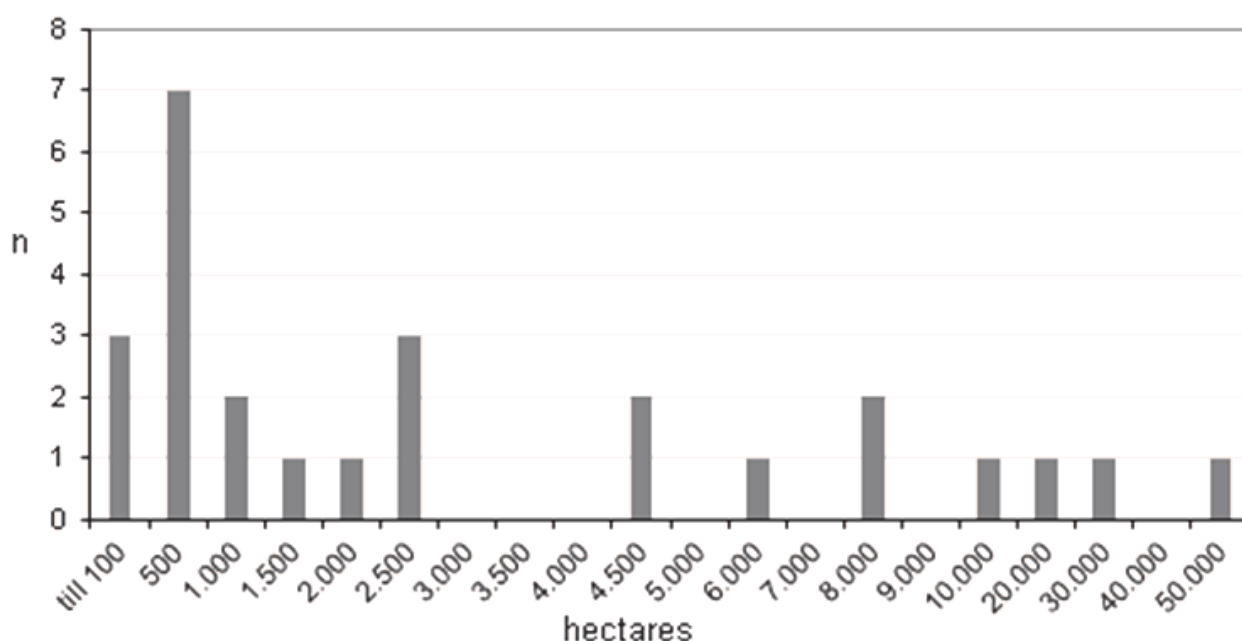


Figure 2: Number of environmental foundations with forest land established since 1960

Table1: First tranche of the “*Nationales Naturerbe*”(DNR 2009) (translated by the author)

Federal agency		BImA	BVVG	LMBV	BEV	Sum
Transfer (ha)		68.903	27.882	4.365	4	101.154
Addressee	DBU (ha)	46.370	18	-	-	46.388
	Länder (ha)	11.128	13.011	4.078	4	28.221
	Associations (ha)	2.139	14.853	287	-	17.279
	BimA (ha)	9.266	-	-	-	9.266

Environmentally valuable sites are of main interest for conservation organisations. To these belong not only large scale sites, but also small parcels of land, if they are of special importance for nature conservation. As potential expanse we can count:

- The so called *Nationales Naturerbe*, which comprises land in federal ownership (for example the former inner-German border), which is dedicated to conservation purposes and will exclusively be transferred to the *Länder* and environmental organisations. An overview of the already transferred areas is shown in the table 1.
- Former military sites, mostly in responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Finance, which is in charge of the privatisation of this land. Because of their expanse and their structural diversity, caused during military use, they are of special interest for nature conservation. There are about 680.000 ha of sites relevant for conservation in Germany; about 348.000 ha are not in military use anymore. A “wicked problem” is the contamination with ammunition that limits options for several kinds of land use.
- Post-mining landscapes, amounting to 96.872 ha of active and closed open-cast mining landscapes in the hand of the LMBV (*Lausitzer und Mitteldeutsche Bergbau-Verwaltungs-gesellschaft*) since 1995. Two third of this land was re-cultivated or re-naturated and transferred to new owners till the end of 2011 (see figure 3).

- BVVG-land that are about 2.4 million hectares of agriculture and forest land formerly owned by the GDR (German Democratic Republic) that is now privatised by the institution BVVG (*Boden-verwertungs- und -verwaltungs GmbH*). Some of this land is also relevant for conservation. Caused by the modifying of federal acts, 65.000 ha are supposed to be transferred free of charge for conservation interests (c.f. Johst 2005, Butter 2012).

This leads to the question of different forms of acquiring forest land. The Federal Republic of Germany and its federal ministries are main actors as they transfer land. The DBU gained its land by two tranches via the coalition contract of 2005 between the political parties CDU, CSU and SPD, a third is supposed to follow.

The contract quotes that there will be 80.000 – 125.000 ha transferred to the DBU free of charge (c.f. *Koalitionsvertrag* 2005, p.56). Besides this, private persons are gaining in importance, for example by buying land or inheritance.

Associations often face difficulties in financing the acquisition costs and management costs for the land. For that purpose, foundations are an appropriate form. These entities can secure a solid financing and they provide for the acquisition of funds. In addition, several tax advantages are offered to foundations. Besides all these benefits, owning land is not only associated to rights, but also to duties.

It can be assumed that environmental organisations will influence policy making even more in the future. An example is the loosened duty to implement safety precautions in the forest in the amendment of the Federal Forest Act (*Bundeswaldgesetz*) of 2010 (*Drucksache Bundesrat 351/10*). In conjunction with this change, the NABU made the following statement: “The NABU especially welcomes the concretisation of the duty to implement safety precautions in the forest” (NABU 2005, translated by the author). Because conservation organisations support a magnitude of deadwood in the forest, this is of special interest for them.

Despite the grown social and political importance of environmental organisations and foundations

there is little attention paid to them in research, especially with a view to associations being a core discipline of political sociology (c.f. Evers 2004). Although there have been several publications, *inter alia* by Bär (1996), Brand (1998), Hengsbach (1996) and Meidinger (1997), Weber (2003) detected an inadequate appreciation of the appropriate need for research. This research gap is of high significance today because the German Delphi-Report “*Waldzukünfte*” (forest futures) of 2008 by the IZT assess a significant change of forest ownership. In addition to the increasing privatisation of public and small scale private forests there will be a further expansion of large scale private forests as well as land owned by environmental organisations (c.f. IZT 2008). Large-scale, mostly economically used forests will

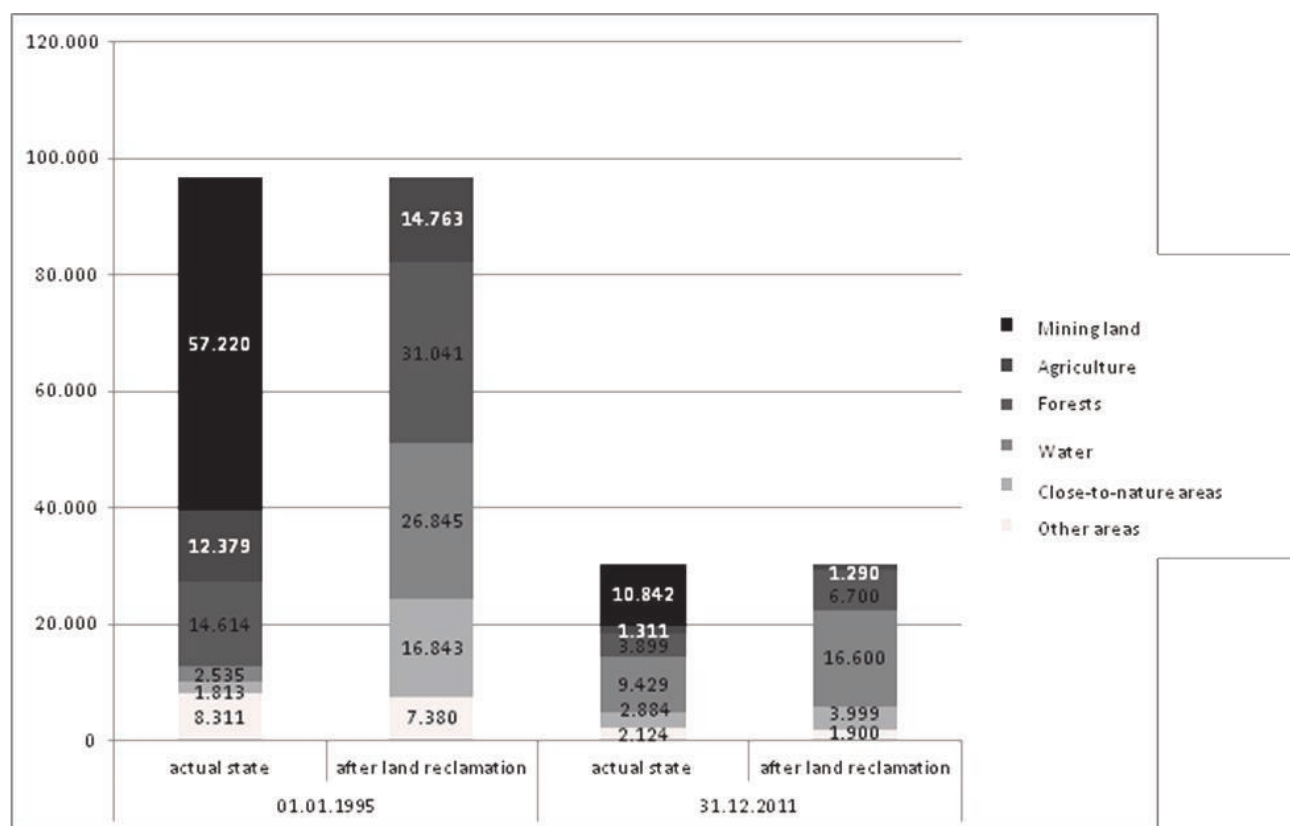


Figure 3: Development of LMBV property after main usage (LMBV 2012) (translated by the author)

probably face socio-ecological structures in the forests of conservation foundations and associations. Statements in regard of expected land acquisitions, for example from abandoned military sites, of the organisations themselves support this research.

As shown on figure 4, there is a research gap, which is directly addressed within this project. The main research questions are:

- The motivation for land ownership (like intensifying forest use or establishing networks of biotopes),
- the form of acquiring forest land (for example by buying, inheritance or transfer from state or federal ownership),

- the strategic aims of the organizations with regard to forestry compared with management aims and activities in the respective forests,
- the role of environmental foundations and organizations as actors in policy making.

The intention of the project is not only to deliver a survey about which environmental organisations own or possess land and in which scale. Rather, it aims at gaining detailed insights into the special features of this forest ownership category that will exert an essential influence on forest policy in Germany.

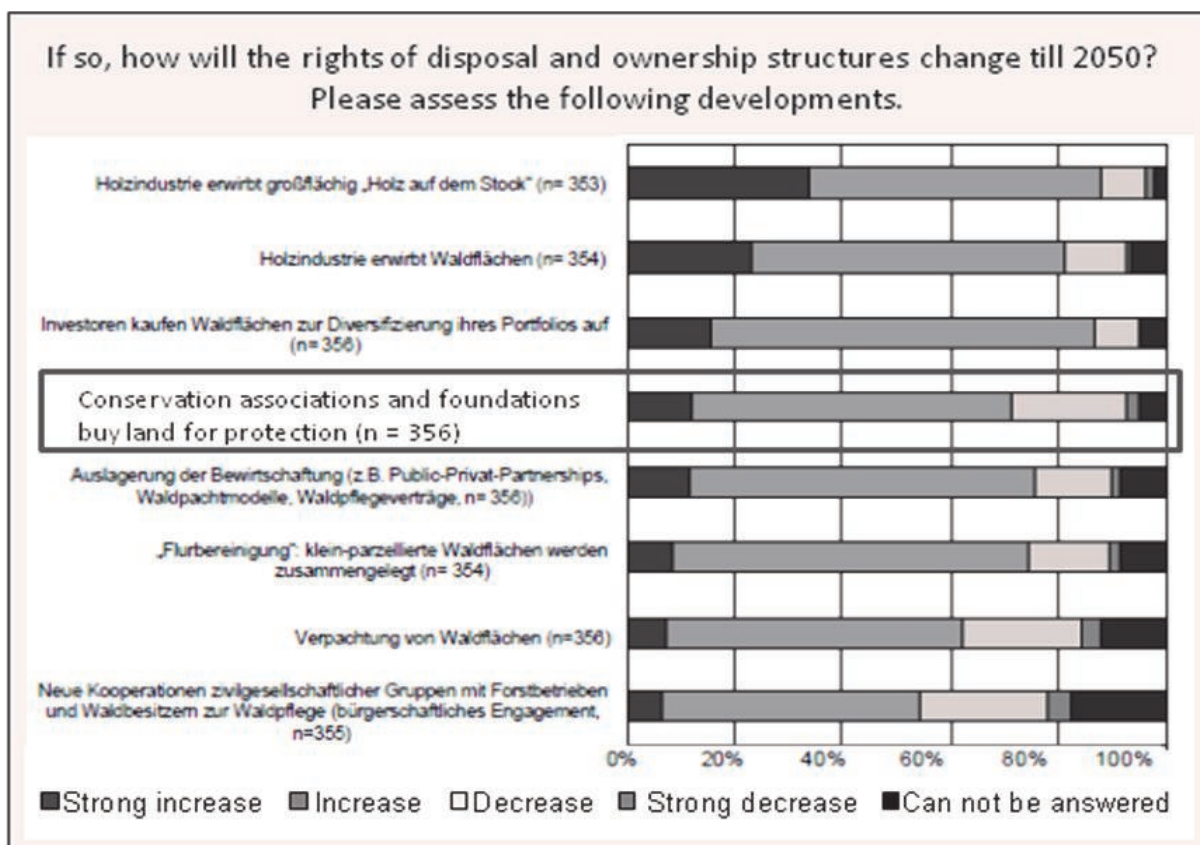


Figure 4: Changes in rights of disposal and ownership structures till 2050 (IZT 2008, S. 87)
(translated by the author)

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What happened between forests and local wisdom?

Novia Fadhillah Sari | Faculty of forestry, Gadjah Maha University, Indonesia

Forest problems that occur today are forest degradation as a result of the mismanagement or constantly exploitation of forests by people in the past. We have to admit that since the first days until now people still rely on the forest. In some cases human dependence on forests can be a problem. For example, in areas with low socio-economic conditions, forests are used to fulfil their daily needs. As a result, the formation of a real forest (climax conditions) can't be reached.

Then how to make balance the input and output of the woods? As we know the societies near forests are very unique to learn. They have what we call local wisdom, local wisdom is the brainchild of local thoughtful, good-value, full of wisdom that is embedded and followed by members of the community. Local wisdom is built from the values of the community itself that serves as a guide, controller and signpost in touch with each other and with nature.

In the era of globalization societies view of the forest can produce a positive output but also there is the possibility of generating a negative output. The mindset of the people towards the forest that leads to positive output due to the possibility of people to know and realize that the importance of forests is increasing. If previously people only knew the forest as a provider of timber (timber product), forest now also function as a provider of environmental services, aesthetics, and even religious.

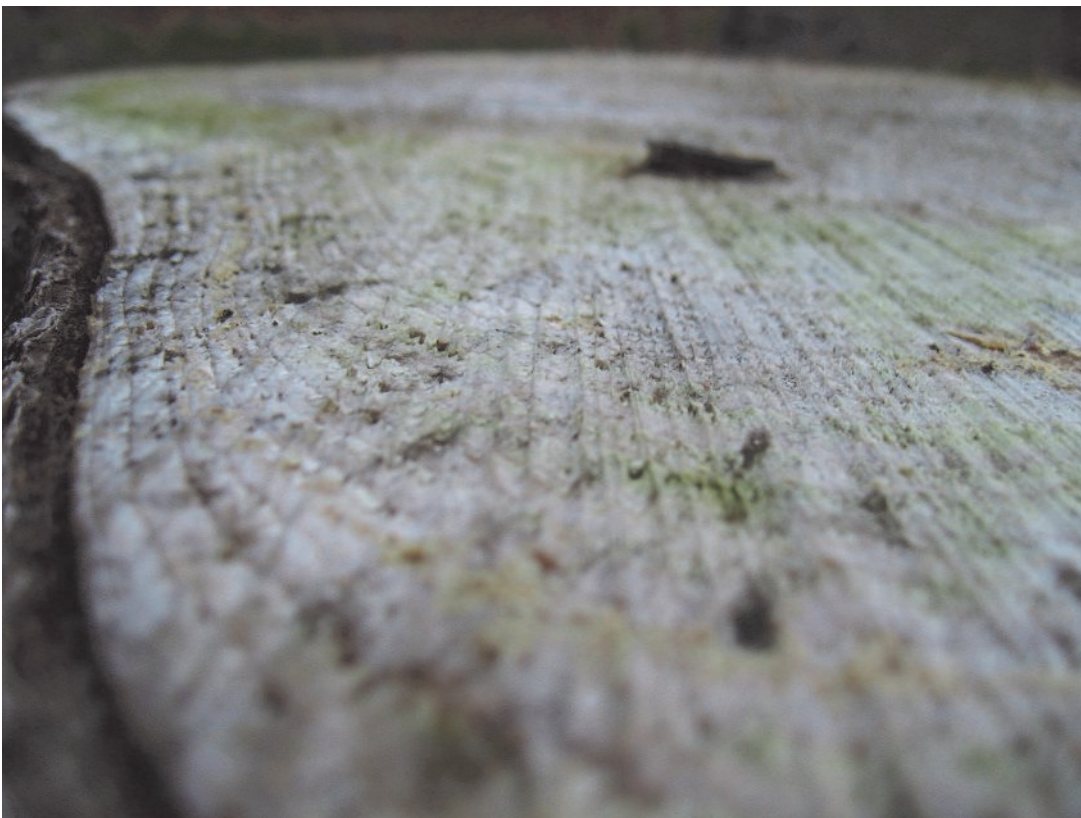


Photo: Kathrin Schörner

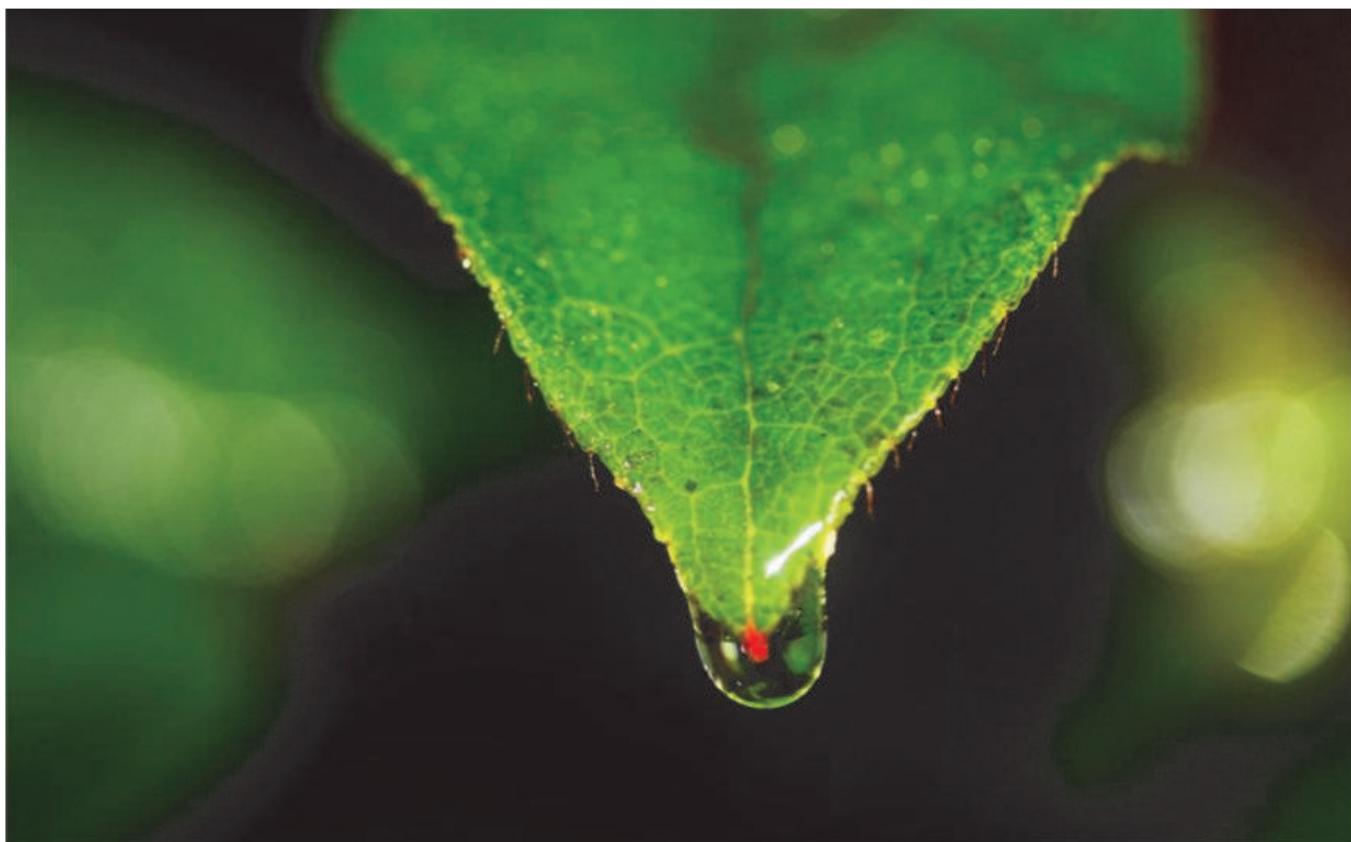


Photo: Andrea M. Vasquez Fernandez

“Globalization is possible with the transition from local wisdom into economy wisdom.”

The problem arises if the public mindset tends to lead to negative things. Globalization is possible with the transition from local wisdom into wisdom economy.

Global economy pressure is one of several causes fading of existing local knowledge. We can imagine if the forest damages plus economic pressures will continue to force local communities use forest as the target their needs, the competition between communities shall arise in exploiting forests.

If they do not participate in forest exploitation they might not get the top of the forest (in their mindset). The forest does not belong to them but because of their environment, as supporting their actions that are clearly wrong, the wrong mindset was formed (illegal logging). Therefore, let keep our existing local wisdom and also make it a part of forest conservation.



*Moment from the
Stadtgarten in Freiburg
im Breisgau (Germany)
in the waking spring.*

Photo: Vasja Leban



Winter Meeting 2013 in Slovenia

Jaša Saražin, Vasja Leban | Biotechnical faculty, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia



Photo: Jaša Saražin

Participants of the Winter Meeting in Bela Krajina.

During the 10th and 16th of March 2013 the fifth international meeting of forestry students was performed in Slovenia. This year we've had the opportunity to host 24 students from different European countries, from the far North Scandinavia, hilly Eastern Europe, diverse Central Europe and animated Turkey, altogether ten different countries. Again we succeeded with joining *dulcum cum utili*.

The meeting began with the lectures at the Forest department of the Biotechnical faculty (University of Ljubljana). Starting with the opening speech of the deputy dean Prof. Dr. Robert Brus the Winter Meeting has officially began. Lectures of deputy dean about Slovenian forests and site conditions were followed by the lecture of Dr. Miha Krofel about large carnivores in Slovenia. Last but not least the director of the company Unicommerce d.o.o. presented their work

and the connection with forestry via very well-known trademark *Stihl*.

After lunch we have started the south Slovenian tour, which has began in *Bela Krajina* region. We were accommodated in a hunting hut of the local hunting society and after that Miha Zupančič (Forest Company Novo Mesto) and Uroš Vranešič (Hunting Society Adlešiči) presented the company activities and game management in Slovenia. International evening followed with tasty gastronomic specialities from different countries.

Tuesday's morning was rainy but that didn't stop us from discovering the region. Mr. Sandi Šolar showed as a working field with the combination of machine and classic harvesting method, silver fir regeneration plots and *belokranjske steljnice* - birch forests traditionally used for grabbing litter.

The small-scale forestry was astonishing for the most of the audience, especially for participants from north European countries. Afterwards we visited the wine cellar of the agricultural cooperative Metlika, where we've tasted quality wines of the region. In the afternoon we visited the enclosure for keeping wild animals at the Dragovan's farm with more than hundred fallow deer's.

After morning' *spring cleaning* of the hut we've continued our journey to southwest region Kras, also well-known around the world for its special karstic caves and other phenomena. In front of the Škocjan's cave the participants learned about the origin of the name and some of the karstic phenomena's could be seen. Nourishing lunch was followed with the ascent to the mountain Slavnik in changeable weather. As a reward we enjoyed a wonderful evening with seaside towns Koper and Trst view.

Because of a dense fog and strong northeast wind, also called *burja* – that usually blows with the speed of 100 km/h and more in the winter – we preferred to stay in the hut and had some presentations about IFSA. In the afternoon we visited one site of a fire and forest redevelopment activities on it. Mr. Jože Primožič presented the

Bled Forest Company and the work in the field, machine harvesting and biomass production.

Our last destination was Idrija and Idrija's region steep forests. Friday was dedicated to forest technology and work techniques in difficult field conditions. Therefore we have visited the working field of the ropeway Syncrofalke. Our speaker and specialist for that field was Mr. Marko Opeka from the SGG Forestry Company. We also had the chance to see the real harvesting with the machine. Unfortunately, because of the large amount of the snow we couldn't see the Idrija's logging sluice (Klavže) and a forest railroad from the beginning of 19th century (Idrijski lauf). The last night we joined the Idrija's student association in their club *Swenak* and had the farewell party.

The conclusion of the meeting was therefore perfect so we've got back to Ljubljana fully of good impressions. With the small but harmonious team of Slovenian LC *Društvo študentov gozdarstva* we again organise this important international event. At the end the OC of the Winter Meeting 2013 would like to thank again to our sponsors, donators and to everyone who did contribute at the meeting and helped us made it such wonderful way.



Photo: Jaša Saražin

The farewell picture of all participants.

COP 18 Climate Conference - Experiences of the IFSA delegation in Doha, Qatar

Christian Lankinen | School for Applied Sciences, Faculty of forestry, Rovaniemi, Finland

IFSA has been involved in the international processes of the United Nations for many years. Each year, the IFSA “Commission for International Processes” organizes a student delegation to the Climate Change Conference, where all 193 UN member states meet to discuss political decisions to solve the climate crisis.

This year's COP (= Conference of the Parties), the 18th of its kind, took place in Doha, Qatar. Nine IFSA students applied for COP18 of which four finally participated in the desert city's conference. We had an international crew from four different countries: Finland, Germany, Austria and South Africa. As an accredited NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), IFSA has the position of an official observer of the negotiations and is granted entrance to all open meetings of the parties or subsidiary bodies.

Typically, a UNFCCC COP lasts two weeks. In the first week, scientific results are being presented and discussed by two main groups: the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI). These two groups meet throughout the year to investigate scientific data and technical solutions as well as to explore the challenges of implementing the policies on the ground.

Besides the SBSTA and the SBI, so-called “Ad hoc Working Groups” discuss issues about a further commitment under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and additional, alternative commitments under a Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA). In the second week, the High-level Segments are being introduced by an official opening ceremony where the current COP president, the UNFCCC secretary, and other official representatives welcome the ministers of the participating countries.

Throughout the second week, presidents and environmental ministers of the countries hold speeches about their countries' concerns. They voice their countries' official position and announce their commitments for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The last days at a COP are dominated by intense, open ended and very exhausting discussions until a definite document has been concluded.

As a first timer in COP I got amazed how many different negotiations, meetings, side events and interviews were available at the same time in the brand new and massive Qatar National Convention Centre. Also the exhibition hall filled mostly of NGO's was huge. At first I got a little confused in the pool of choices, but later on I found myself in exact the events I was interested in. Over 17 000 people attended the COP18 and it was well advertised around the city.



Photo: Simeon Max

The plenary sessions which were open to all participants of the COP18 seemed to follow the same pattern every time. Different nations delegated praised his holiness the former Energy Minister, Abdullah bin Hamd Al-Attiyah, for hosting the COP18 which took valuable and limited time to come the point. After this different country delegates usually presented how climate change is affecting their land and brought the fact out that something needs to be done. The language at the negotiations was somehow hard to understand and sometimes it felt like the politicians did not come with anything clever to say. On the last day of COP I found myself on a high level dialogue organized by the government of Sweden with the topic "Arctic climate change - rapid change and global consequences." The message from this side-event was clear. "Arctic climate change causes fundamental changes in

water, snow, ice and permafrost conditions in the Arctic, with cascading effects to biodiversity, ecosystems and human living conditions in the arctic and around the world. Arctic climate change is therefore a major global concern." A frustrated young Canadian activist uttered to the minister of Environment Lena Ek from Sweden "If you know all the fact already why don't you do something".

The last forest day to be held besides the COP was introduced by the director general of CIFOR Holmgren. Forest Day is an event held by CIFOR and has developed into one of the world's most renowned events on forests over the last five years. As CIFOR, the Center for International Forestry Research, is a professional IFSA partner, our student delegation was involved in the event. We were welcoming and guiding the guests who entered the Renaissance in Hotel. This year our help was not that much needed, because there were a bunch of local students helping out with the practical organizational tasks.

Climate change and international policy making is just such a large area that I can agree with Walid Mustapha that you need several COPs to understand really what is going on. I'm really happy that I attended the COP18 in Qatar that I at least have a little glimpse of the complexity of the biggest question of survival of mankind.

"Probably the most memorable speak during the COP18 was from the head of the Philippine delegation. The man burst into tears the day after the Typhoon Bobha had killed over 500 people in the Philippines asking the leaders of the world to act now to prevent climate change."



The IFSA delegation at the COP 18 Climate conference

Photo: Simeon Max

Overview of latest theme related scientific papers

Collected by Isabel Rosa | Department of Life Sciences, Imperial College London

Community forests for forest communities: Integrating community-defined goals and practices in the design of forestry initiatives

Authors: Hajjar R., Kozak R. A., El-Lakany H., Innes J. L.

Journal title: Land Use Policy

Publication year: 2013

Volume: 34

Number: /

Pages: 158-167



Forests, poverty and equity in Africa: New perspectives on policy and practice

Authors: Anderson J., Benjamin C., Campbell B. M., Tiveau D.

Journal title: International Forestry Review

Publication year: 2006

Volume: 8

Number: 1

Pages: 44-53



Forest management planning technology issues posed by climate change

Authors: Bettinger P., Siry J., Merry K.

Journal title: Forest Science and Technology

Publication year: 2013

Volume: 9

Number: 1

Pages: 9-19



Forest tenure reform in the age of climate change: Lessons for REDD+

Authors: Larson A. M.

Journal title: Global Environmental Change

Publication year: 2011

Volume: 21

Number: 2

Pages: 540-549





Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and Decentralized Forest Management

Authors: Irawan S., Tacconi L.

Journal title: International Forestry Review

Publication year: 2009

Volume: 11

Number: 4

Pages: 427-438



Changing Governance of the World's Forests

Authors: Agrawal A., Chhatre A., Hardin R.

Journal title: Science

Publication year: 2008

Volume: 320

Number: 5882

Pages: 1460-1462



Deforestation, corruption, and private ownership in the forest sector

Authors: Koyuncu C., Yilmaz R.

Journal title: Quality & Quantity

Publication year: 2013

Volume: 47

Number: 1

Pages: 227-236



“My forest, my kingdom”—Self-referentiality as a strategy in the case of small forest owners coping with government regulations

Authors: Van Herzele A., Aarts N.

Journal title: Policy Science

Publication year: 2013

Volume: 46

Number: 1

Pages: 63-81



StudyPortals - discover your study opportunities

Sissy Böttcher | StudyPortals - The European study choice portal, Eindhoven

Did you know that you can study for free in Sweden? And that it is possible to study Forestry in English in for instance the Czech Republic or Spain? And that there is €16 billion in scholarships available to study in Europe? Now you do. Read on and be surprised by the great study opportunities that Europe has to offer, with thanks to the people at StudyPortals – the European study choice platform.



How do we do it?

Every day, almost 70,000 students visit the StudyPortals platforms. That's 2.5 million per month! This is because on StudyPortals.eu you can find and compare more than 30,000 study opportunities. You easily search amongst all these programmes and narrow them down to just a handful that are of interest to you. There are about 50 forestry related Master's programmes in Europe, all taught in English!

StudyPortals provides a unique overview of all study programs offered in any European country. Through the search engine you can find study programmes in your discipline of interest. Each program is presented in the same way, it has a short description, information about the tuition fee (EU and Non-EU), and also duration and university information. It provides all details related to study programme: application requirements, contents, application deadlines, start dates, mode etc.

Find the right study programme

On StudyPortals you can find information on degree programmes all over Europe. The Bologna Process has brought European Higher Education

Institutes closer together and now you have the chance to easily find an inexpensive yet very good Bachelor's degree in Scandinavian countries on BachelorsPortal.eu. Or are you more interested in a Master's degree at one of the highly prestigious Universities in the UK that is listed on Mastersportal.eu? You can also do research about water shortage in the Mediterranean. Just find your PhD in Portugal, Spain, Italy or Greece on PhDPortal.eu.

But we don't stop there. We know what students need because we have been there ourselves not long ago and we nurture our contacts with Student Associations such as IFSA. Therefore we know that there is more to studying than just finding a programme that suits you.

The team of StudyPortals does its best to stimulate and inform you on (inter)national study choice. On several portals you can find relevant information about study programmes also related to forestry and information about funding opportunities. In addition you have a great chance to learn from other students and experiences they have shared on Student Experience Exchange platform.

Finance your studies

Of course you need to finance your studies somehow. Guess what! You can find all scholarship related information on StudyPortals as well – just check ScholarshipPortal.eu. There is more than € 15.6 billion available for scholarships every year. There are funding opportunities for studying, working or performing research in Europe to be found. Just select where you come from, where you want to go, what you want to study, and hit Search!

Read and share study experiences

The best way to get to know the university, city, or social life where are you heading to is through first-hand experience and real life stories. On STeXX.eu, the Student Experience Exchange platform you can find all the relevant information that the university cannot tell you about. How is the food in the canteen? Are people in the country you go to welcoming? What does the nightlife in the city look like? How expensive are apartments? ...

You can also be a part of this fast growing social platform. This is a great opportunity to share your study experience and student stories. Go to SteXX.eu and write something about your study experience, it only takes 5 minutes.

You can review any university in Europe: in your own country or you can write about your international exchange period.

NEW! Learn from a Distance

We continue to grow and have new projects coming up all the time. Recently we have completed the launch of DistancelearningPortal.eu. There you can find information about studying in Europe without being in Europe. The first 7 distance learning programmes that are related to forestry are online already and there will be more to come. So even if Europe is too far, too expensive or for any other reason not the right choice for you, it is now possible to find a degree programme.

Psst...! There's more to come

Are you encouraged now to discover the opportunities waiting for you in Europe? There's even more to come! We are currently working on improving our new user system for you to manage your favorite programmes. For the future you can expect live chats with counselors and universities and more interesting content such as webinars. But these are all still secrets... so don't tell anyone!



*The StudyPortals
Team in
December 2012*

Photo: StudyPortals

IFSA's & external upcoming events

Collected by IFSA

Canadian American Regional Meeting

Place: Vancouver, Canada

Date: 26. - 28. April

Theme: Developing a vision for IFSA in North America



Northern Africa Regional Meeting



Place: Nigeria

Date: 27. May - 01. June

Theme: The role of forest in storing carbon,
contributions of forestry students

South European Regional Meeting

Place: Austria/Hungary

Date: 28. April - 05. May



Southern European Regional Meeting

North European Regional Meeting



Place: Estonia

Date: 05. - 11. May

Asia Regional Meeting

Place: Philippines

Date: 20. - 25. May

Theme: Forestry Mega Trends in Asia-Pacific



South Africa Regional Meeting



Place: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, George,
South Africa

Date: 24. - 26. June

Theme: Innovative Forestry Land Use

International Forestry Students' Symposium

Place: Spain

Date: 01. - 15. August

Theme: Living in biodiversity

CIFOR 20th anniversary

Place: Yaoundé, Cameroon

Date: 22. - 23. May

Theme: Sustainable Forest Management in Central Africa: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

**IUFROLAT - Third IUFRO Latin American Congress**

Place: San José, Costa Rica

Date: 12. - 15. June

Theme: TBA

GCHERA CIS Regional Conference

Place: Moscow, Russia

Date: 27. - 28. June

Theme: Bringing solutions to food security in the face of climate uncertainty

**EFI Annual Conference (20th anniversary)**

Place: Nancy, France

Date: 23. - 27. September

Theme: Our forests in the 20th century - ready for risks and opportunities?

ITTO Session of the International Tropical Timber Council

Place: Libreville, Gabon

Date: 25. - 30. September

Theme: TBA

**ICA Rectors and Deans Forum**

Place: Ghent, Belgium

Date: 30. - 31. October

Theme: Growing the bioeconomy

Some options to learn more about forests...

Collected by Andrea M. Vasquez Fernandez | University of British Columbia, Canada

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) among its goals have designed and co-designed a series of events of great interest to those who one way or another have developed expectations in the forestry sector. As part of these initiatives, I would bring to the attention of the interested forest community some of the events that the Forestry Department has for this year. For more information please visit <http://www.fao.org/forestry/events/en/>

Advisory Committee on Sustainable forest-based Industries (ACSFI) - 54th Session

4. - 5. June | São Paulo, Brazil | Formal meeting

This group comprised by senior executives of private industry that meet yearly in order to provide direction on industry issues to the activities and programs of work of the FAO Forestry Department.

Forests for Future Generations - Public and Private Responsibility for Sustainability

11. - 12. June | Berlin, Germany | Policy dialogue

This event tries to commemorate three milestones in the forest sector by sharing first-hand information from government, private and civil society sector in Germany regarding good practice examples in support sustainable forest management.

Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) - 28th Session

9. - 13. September | To be determined | Formal meeting

This meeting projects to congregate a number of forestry specialists of the region to advise FAO in forthcoming programs to be developed.

North American Forest Commission – 27th Session

15. - 19. October | Madison, Wisconsin, USA | Formal meeting

This commission yearly meets to elaborate a number of recommendations for FAO Forestry Department to focus on relevant information for building future programs in the region.

Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission - 25th Session

4. - 8. November | New Zealand | Formal meeting

In this commission will be discussed future key actions focused in Asia and Pacific region.



Photo: Kathrin Schörner

Call for articles

Dear IFSA members and IFSA News readers,

the Editorial team thanks to all the contributors for this issue and encourages others to take advantage of participating. Let others know what are you doing... write a report, an article, a story or a résumé of your thesis. Submissions are welcome any time!

Participating is being!

*You may write us at: **ifsanews@ifsa.net***

IFSA

edited by
INFOCENTER

NEWS

OCTOBER 90

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ARTICLE BY CLAUS RÖHL :

Hi folks,

Today I will give you some more information about my meeting with Mr. T.J. Peck, the Director of the ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division.

It was a nice experience to meet Mr. Peck last February in Freiburg. We talked about the I.F.S.A. and the possibilities to deepen the contacts between the two organizations. As a result of that we will start a survey among our members whether / in which way international forestry is taught at our universities and we are invited to present the results of this survey during the joint session of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission in Geneva in October 1993.

Our local I.F.S.A.- group in Freiburg also started to work on the organisation of an international seminar due to the developments within the European Community in 1992. This seminar is planned to take place in July 1992 in Freiburg.

A problem which meanwhile became a very strong one is our financial situation. There was no answer from the Erasmus bureau in Bruxelles about financial support for the I.F.S.A.-News till today. I will contact them again and I hope I can give you good news at the 19th International Forestry Students Symposium in Wageningen / The Netherlands.

Apropos- the Organization Committee of the IFSS 1991 is doing really good work and I'm sure that it will be a great and interesting experience for every participant.

During the excursion "Virgin Forests of Slovakia" last May, which was a very impressing and funny one (thanks to Martin Fodor and Jozef Turok) we also talked a lot about the IFSS.



One weekend in June Wolfgang and I decided to go to Wageningen to see the ongoings of the organizational work and I'm sorry that we failed to arrive in time for the official opening of the IFSS-Office. We tried to avoid the motorways and when we finally took one we lost more than an hour because of a demonstration at the border between Luxembourg and Belgium. That's life!

But we arrived in Wageningen anyway - 3 hours later than planned - to meet some students of the IFSS 1991 team in a restaurant, where we discussed our plans for the weekend. Because of the nice weather (it was raining all the day and night) we visited the Rijksmuseum Kroller-Muller in the National Park Hoge Veluwe together with Mark. They have a large collection of paintings from Van Gogh and this is not the only reason which makes this museum well worth a visit. After this cultural trip we experienced the nightlife of Wageningen together with Mimi and Mark, which was very amusing and which ended early in the morning at Mark's place with an empty bottle of Port (greetings to Portugal).

The next morning we left Wageningen to visit Amsterdam, Delft and Middelburg (see the article from Mimi).

We enjoyed this weekend very much and we look forward to come back to Wageningen in September this year to see again the beautiful grasslands, cows, windmills and -of course- forests too.

For the Executive Committee and the IFSA Freiburg, Claus Röhl

IFSA-NEWS

1

*"To make knowledge productive, we will have to learn to see both forest and tree.
We will have to learn to connect."*

Peter F. Drucker