



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADAPTATION OF FORESTS AND FOREST MANAGEMENT TO CHANGING CLIMATE WITH EMPHASIS ON FOREST HEALTH: A REVIEW OF SCIENCE, POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Book of Abstracts and
Preliminary Programme

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Adaptation of Forests and Forest Management to Changing Climate with Emphasis on Forest Health: A Review of Science, Policies and Practices

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INDEX

Letters of Welcome.....	p. v
Week at a Glance - The Schedule.....	p. ix
Week at a Glance - Programming the Sessions.....	p. x
Preliminary Detailed Programme.....	p. xi
Keynote Speakers	p. xiv
Preliminary Session Contents.....	p. xv
Abstracts.....	p. 1
Table of Contents.....	p. 279

USING FOREST ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN BURKINA FASO AND GHANA: POLICY GAPS AND CONSTRAINTS

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Forest resource governance through the formation and implementation of policies determines the forest ecosystem goods and services (FEGS) communities and sectors can act upon to adapt during climatic hazards. Many communities in West Africa have been, and are still using forest ecosystem goods and services to adapt to climate hazards, while sectoral policies, programmes and projects on FEGS have also been put in place as response measures to climate related disasters—especially since the Sahelian droughts of the 1970s and 1980s. Despite all these efforts, these communities and sectors are still vulnerable to impacts of climate change, as indicated by the National Adaptation Plan of Action and the First National Communication documents submitted to the Climate Change Convention.

This paper, therefore, analyses policy obstacles related to the utilization of FEGS by communities and sectors for adaptation to impacts of climate change in Burkina Faso and Ghana. Findings of the policy analysis revealed that major limitations to which, when and how FEGS can be used by communities and sectors to achieve higher responsiveness during adaptation to climate hazards depend on the nature of participation in decision making, nature of access to and tenure rights over resources, incentive schemes, and the policy and political context. Literature has shown, however, the need for a better appreciation through awareness raising of the role of FEGS for community and sectoral adaptation, a climate change adaptation objective in current forest policy and programmes, improvement in the coordination of adaptation activities and synergies between sectors, as well as adequate financial and human resources to implement and enforce existing policies.

In conclusion, we recommend more flexibility in the formulation and implementation of policies on FEGS, taking into account future opportunities in climate change adaptation response to foster national development activities alongside the special needs of vulnerable communities and sectors.

Key words: adaptation, community, climate hazards, forest policy, goods and services.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Achu Awa Walters - Sustainable Forest Management Systems within Rural Communities of the North-West Province of Cameroon, Strong Strategic Approaches for Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa (Poster, Session 9)	3
Adano Wario R. - Effects of Land-Use and Climate Changes on the Mount Marsabit's Forest Ecosystem, Kenya (Oral, Session 8)	4
Adil Said - Climate Change and Forest in Morocco: Case of the Decay of the Cedar in the Atlas Mountains (Poster, Session 13)	5
Afolabi O.R. and Onyekwelu, J.C. - The Socio-Economic Impact of Industrial Plantation Programmes on Rural Livelihood: A Case Study of Communities in Forest Reserves in Nigeria (Poster, Session 8)	6
Akegbejo-Samsons Y., Alegbeleye W.O. and Ojo L.O. - Forest Trees Composition, Fisheries and Wildlife Status of Omo Biosphere Forest Reserve, Ogun State, Nigeria (Oral, Session 2)	7
Akinnagbe A., Gailing O. and Finkeldey R. - Genetic Consequence of Human Impact on Diversity and Response to Climate Change in Two Tropical Tree Species with Contrasting Successional Status (Poster, Session 7)	8
Alam M. - Climate Variability and Change in North-Western Bangladesh: Role of Smallholder Agroforestry in Adaptation to Desertification (Oral, Session 8)	9
Al-Amin M. and Khanam C. Sultana - Sketching Future Semi-Evergreen Forest of Bangladesh Considering Climate Change Scenarios and Adaptation (Poster, Session 15)	10
Alarcón Ferrari Cristián - Climate Change and Politics of Forests: Understanding the Relationships Among Law, Markets, Environmental Communication and Governance - Cases From Chile and Sweden (Poster, Session 9)	11
Albaugh Timothy J., Linder Sune, Nilsson Urban, Lundmark Tomas, Bergh Johan, Allen H. Lee and Flower-Ellis Jeremy - Utility of Biological Expansion Factors for Estimating Above Ground Component Biomass of <i>Picea abies</i> L. Karst (Oral, Session 4)	12
Albert M. and Schmidt M. - Climate-Sensitive Modeling of Site-Productivity Relationship (Oral, Session 4)	13
Alizoti P.G., Kilimis K. and Gallios P. - Temporal and Spatial Variation of Flowering Among <i>Pinus nigra</i> Arn. Clones Under Changing Climatic Conditions (Oral, Session 12)	14
Allard Gillian B. - Climate Change Impacts on Forest Health: Forest Dieback (Oral, Session 14)	15
Allen Craig D. - Climate-Induced Forest Dieback: A Global Overview of Emerging Risks (Oral, Session 14)	16
Amanulla B.K.M., Vidyasagar G. and Ramakrishna Hegde - Climate Change Mitigation: Influence of Genetic Stock and Spacing on Carbon Sequestration (Poster, Session 17)	17
Aneni T.I. and Okali D.U. - Community-Based Forest Management: A Case Study of Wuda-Taye Forest Reserve, Nigeria (Poster, Session 8)	18
Asche Norbert and Schulz Rainer - Identifying Forests Susceptible to Climate Change by GIS-Based Forest Site Classification (Oral, Session 15)	19
Asfaw Biruk, Lemenih Mulugeta and Achalu Negussie - Traditional Knowledge on Adaptation to Climate Change with Reference to Woody Species Composition and Socio-Economic Roles of Traditional Agroforestry Practices in South Eastern Langano, Oromiya, Ethiopia (Poster, Session 11)	20
Aslam Malik Amin - Development of the Carbon Market in Pakistan – Issues and Opportunities for Sustainable Forestry (Keynote)	21
Atibila J. M. - The River Between: Innovative Fringing Forest Management in Response to Climate Change by Two Communities Lying Across the White Volta River (Oral, Session 11)	22

Axelsson Robert - Continuous Tree Cover Forests and Continuous Cover Forestry in Sweden (Poster, Session 15)	23
Baatarbileg Nachin - Tree-Ring Analysis Used for Climate Reconstruction and Fire Frequency in Mongolia (Oral, Session 3)	24
Baláz Peter and Hlásny Tomáš - Climate Change Impact on Spruce (<i>Picea Abies</i> L.) and Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> L.) Growth Potential in Slovakia (Poster, Session 2)	25
Baral S.K. and Katzensteiner K. - Ecological Sustainability of Community Forest Management – A Case Study from the Midhills of Nepal (Poster, Session 6)	26
Barklund Pia, Njuguna Jane, Gure Abdella, Nyeko Philip and Stenlid Jan - Perspectives on Boreal and Tropical Tree Pathology with a Changing Climate (Oral, Session 5)	27
Basu Jyotish Prakash - Climate Change, Non-Timber Forest Products and Rural Livelihood: A Study in the Drought-Prone District of West Bengal (Oral, Session 8)	28
Beatty J.S. and Ager A.A. - Wildland Threat Assessment and Monitoring Systems on National Forests in the USA (Oral, Session 13)	29
Beauregard Robert, Morency Pierre-Olivier and Bouthillier Luc - Why Wood is Key to Green Building (Oral, Session 18)	30
Bele M.Y., Jum C. and Nkem J. - Balancing Livelihoods Needs for Adaptation and Reducing Carbon Emissions from Forests: Case Study of Community Forestry in the Cameroon Forest Policy Reform (Oral, Session 8)	31
Bergh J., Nilsson U. and Karlsson M. - Simulated Regional Effects of Climate Change on Net Primary Production for Forests in Sweden (Oral, Session 1)	32
Bernhold A., Hansson P., Rioux D., Simard M. and Laflamme G. - Resistance of Introduced <i>Pinus contorta</i> and Native <i>P. sylvestris</i> to <i>Gremmeniella abietina</i> (LTT, European Race) in Sweden (Oral, Session 5)	33
Bernhold A. and Witzell J. - Tree Mortality, Increment Loss and Foliage Recovery in Middle-Aged <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> following Defoliation by <i>Gremmeniella abietina</i> and Subsequent Attack by <i>Tomicus piniperda</i> (Poster, Session 5)	34
Bertin Sophie, Perks Mike, Straw Nigel, Mason Bill, Grace John and Mencuccini Maurizio - Will Adoption of Carbon-Lean Management Practices Lead to Increased Pest Incidence? (Oral, Session 5)	35
Blate Geoffrey M. - Adapting to Climate Change on National Forests in the United States (Oral, Session 9)	36
Blay D., Idinoba M., Nkem J. and Kalame F. - Climate Change and Non-Timber Forest Products in Ghana: Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptations (Oral, Session 6)	37
Blennow Kristina - Adaptation of Forest Management among Small-Scale Private Forest Owners (Oral, Session 8)	38
Blennow Kristina, Andersson Mikael, Sallnäs Ola and Olofsson Erika - Climate Change and the Probability of Wind Damage in Two Swedish Forests (Oral, Session 3)	39
Bontemps Jean-Daniel, Hervé Jean-Christophe and Dhôte Jean-François - Long-Term Trends and Fluctuations of Common Beech and Sessile Oak Growth in France during the 20th Century and their Compared Climatic Interpretations (Oral, Session 4)	40
Bravo-Oviedo A., Gallardo-Andrés C., del Río M. and Montero G. - Climate Change Effects on Site Index Estimation in Mediterranean Maritime Pine Forests (Oral, Session 4)	41
Brockhaus M., Vignola R., Santoso H., Sanchez P., Siagian Y. and Lasco R. - The TroFCCA Policy Research Framework on Actors, Decision-Making and Policy Networks (Oral, Session 11)	42
Bytnerowicz A., Wingfield M., Paoletti E., Laflamme G. and Liebhold A. - Effects of Climate, Air Pollution, Pests and Pathogens on Forest Health – An Integrative Perspective of IUFRO (Oral, Session 5)	43
Caesar John C. - Guyana's Proposal for Global Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: The Jagdeo Climate Change Initiative (Oral, Session 17)	44

Campbell E.M., Haeussler S. and Nitschke C.R. - Using Resilience Theory to Understand and Manage Pine Ecosystem Dynamics in an Era of Rapid Climate Change (Poster, Session 15)	45
Cañellas I, del Río M, Calama R, Pardos M, Sixto H, Roig S, Mutke S, Bravo-Oviedo A., Chambel R, Alía R, Montero G. - Spanish Experimental Long-Term Network for Sustainable Forest Management (Poster, Session 6)	46
Carella Rocco - Forest Conservation in the Climate Change: The Case Study of Puglia Region – Italy (Poster, Session 7)	47
Casalegno S. and Reithmaier L.M. - Present Vulnerability and Future Trends of Changes for <i>Pinus cembra</i> L. in the Alps (Oral, Session 2)	48
Chaturvedi Rajiv Kumar and Tiwari Rakesh - Impact of Climate Change on Indian Forests: A Short- and Medium-Term Assessment (Oral, Session 2)	49
Chauhan S.K., Sharma S.C., Beri V., Ritu, Yadav S. and Gupta N. - Yield and Carbon Sequestration Potential of Wheat-Poplar Based Agri-Silvicultural System (Poster, Session 17)	50
Chenchouni Haroun, Bachir Abdelkrim Si and Briki Athmane - The Deterioration of the Atlas Cedar (<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>) in Algeria (Poster, Session 13)	51
Chenchouni Haroun, Righi Yassine, Bachir Abdelkrim Si and Hamchi AbdelHafidh - Valorisation of the Fauna Communities in the Algerian Forests: Case of the National Park of Belezma (Algeria, North Africa) (Poster, Session 7)	52
Chiba Y., Migita C. and Han Q. - Simulation of Photosynthetic Production of Beech (<i>Fagus crenata</i>) Trees Affected by Temperature Oscillation Amplitude (Poster, Session 1)	53
Clark J.R., Cahalan C., Boshier D., Gosling P. and McCarten D. - Chilling Requirements of Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.) and Climate Change (Oral, Session 12))	54
Cobbinah J.R. - Climate Change and Indigenous Coping Responses in West Africa (Poster, Session 11)	55
Corcuera L., Peguero-Pina J.J. and Gil-Pelegrín E. - Winter Temperature Rising in Cold Mediterranean Areas: a New Chance for the Evergreen Oak Species? (Poster, Session 12)	56
Coulibaly Yacouba Noël, Idinoba Monica, Verbeeten Elke and Nkem Johnson - Guideline for Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of Forest Ecosystem Services in Adaptation of Water Resources in West Africa (Poster, Session 9)	57
Coulombe S., Bernier P.Y. and Raulier F. - Dealing With Error: Will Climate Change Have a Significant Effect on Predictions from Empirical Growth and Yield Models? (Oral, Session 4)	58
Dai L.M., Zhong L., Zhou L. and Yu D.P. - Carbon Sequestration in Broad-Leaved and Korean Pine Mixed Forests by Different Harvesting Practices in Changbai Mountain, Northeast China (Poster, Session 17)	59
De Frenne P., Kolb A., Verheyen, K., Hermy, M. and Graae B. et al. - Unraveling the Influence of Temperature, Latitude and Local Environment on the Reproduction of Six Forest Herbs along a Latitudinal Gradient (Oral, Session 1)	60
Devall, M.S. - Effect of Global Climate Change on Rare Trees and Shrubs in the Southern United States (Oral, Session 2)	61
Dhakal M. and Masuda M. - Role of Community-Based Forest Management to Address Climate Change Problem: A Case of Nepalese Community Forestry (Oral, Session 8)	62
Dimond Alison T., Brown Perry and Freimund Wayne - Impacts of Climate Change on Forest Recreation and Tourism and the Livelihoods of Communities that Depend on this Industry (Oral, Session 8)	63
Doyle Thomas W. and Krauss Ken W. - Forecasting Mangrove Forest Response of the Florida Everglades to Sea-Level Rise Under Climate Change (Poster, Session 15)	64
Eav B., Barbour J. and White R. - Trees for Energy: A Better Bet for Biofuels (Oral, Session 6)	65

Eichhorn Johannes, Dammann Inge and Paar Uwe - Reaction of Growth and Litterfall of <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> to Climatic Variability (Oral, Session 1)	66
Eniang Edem A. and Balehegn Mulubrhan - Assessing Indigenous Knowledge for Evaluation, Propagation and Conservation of Indigenous Multipurpose Fodder-Trees Towards Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in Northern, Ethiopia (Poster, Session 11).	67
Eniang Edem A., Mengistu Genet F. and Yidego Teshale - Climate Change, Resettled Communities, Forest Resources Conservation and Livelihood Options around Kafta-Sheraro Forest Reserve, Tigray Region, Ethiopia (Poster, Session 8)	68
Faisal Arif M., Davy Anthony J. and Sparks Tim - Analysis of the Shifting of Phenophases of Common British Wild Plants in Response to Climate Change (Oral, Session 1)	69
Fernández L.C. and Alcobé F. - Climate Change Scenarios for Argentinian Forest and Protected Areas (Oral, Session 15)	70
Fontes L., Tomé M. and Coelho M. Baptista - Biomass Equations for <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> in Portugal: An Assessment of Carbon Involved in Forest Harvesting (Poster, Session 6)	71
Freeman M., Wikström P. and Elfving B.O. - Adjustment of an Empirical Growth and Yield Model to Account for Effects of Climate Change on Forest Production (Poster, Session 15)	72
Garedew E., Sandewall M. and Söderberg U. - Land-Use/Land-Cover Change, Deforestation and Food Insecurity in Ethiopia (Oral, Session 8)	73
Gaul Dirk, Hertel Dietrich, Leuschner Christoph - Experimental Frost and Drought Affect Fine Root Dynamics and Carbon Input to the Soil in a Spruce Forest (Oral, Session 1)	74
Gea-Izquierdo G. and Cañellas I. - Modeling Diameter Growth in Open Oak Woodlands Using Gamma Regression (Poster, Session 6)	75
Gertner George and Xu Chonggang - Projected Forested Landscapes Uncertainties and Their Sources of Uncertainty (Oral, Session 15)	76
Gevorgyan Artur - Integration of Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Measures is Co-Beneficial for Forest Development (Oral, Session 17)	77
Girma A. and Mosandl R. - Studies on Population Structure and Regeneration of Woody Species in Dry Afromontane Forest, South Eastern Ethiopia (Oral, Session 2)	78
Guan Biing T., Chung Chih-Hsin and Lin Shu-Tzong - Quantifying the Height Growth-Temperature Relationship of Plantation Taiwan Spruce (Oral, Session 4)	79
Gustavsson Leif and Sathre Roger - Low-Energy Wood-Framed Buildings Heated with Bio-Based CHP Plants (Oral, Session 18)	80
Gutiérrez Alvaro G., Barbosa Olga, Christie Duncan A., del-Val Ek., Ewing Holly A., Jones Clive G., Marquet Pablo A., Weathers Kathleen C. and Armesto Juan J. - Persistence of the Fog-Dependent Fray Jorge Forest in Semi-Arid Chile during the Past Two Centuries (Oral, Session 2)	81
Gyampoh, B. A., Amisah, S. and Idinoba, M. – Coping with Climate Change: How Local Communities Use Traditional Knowledge in Rural Ghana (Oral, Session 11)	82
Hanewinkel M. and Hummel S. - Designing Adaptive Strategies for Forests Under Climate Change Using Risk Management (Oral, Session 15)	83
Hanewinkel Marc and v. Teuffel Konstantin - A Decision Support System to Deal with the Effects of Climate Change on Forests in Southwest Germany (Oral, Session 15)	84
Hansson P. and Ottosson-Löfvenius M. - Was the Latest Outbreak of <i>Gremmeniella abietina</i> in Sweden Caused by Certain Climatic Sequences? (Oral, Session 5)	85
Haque M.S. and Karmakar K.G. - Prospects of Afforestation and Reforestation (A/R) Projects in India for Mitigating Climate Change (Oral, Session 17)	86
Harrington C.A., St. Clair J.B. and Gould P.J. - Effect of Warm Winter Temperatures and Genotype on Budburst of Douglas-Fir (Oral, Session 12)	87

Hawkins Chris and Runzer Kyle - Mountain Pine Beetle Attack in Immature Lodgepole Pine Stands in Central British Columbia, Canada (Oral, Session 5)	88
Heinimann Hans Rudolf - Precision Forestry – A Key Concept to Make Adaptive Management Operational? (Keynote)	89
Heiskanen J., Olsson H., Sundquist S., Nilsson B., Allard A., Moen J., Holm S. and Mäki A.-H. - National Inventory of Landscapes in Sweden (NILS) as a Platform for Monitoring Impacts of Climate Change in the Swedish Mountain Areas (Poster, Session 2)	90
Hennigar Chris R. and MacLean David A. - Optimizing Timber Supply and Carbon Sequestration Planning for Future Spruce Budworm Outbreaks in New Brunswick, Canada (Oral, Session 17)	91
Hesseln Hayley, Johnston Mark, Weseen Simon and Williamson Tim - Adapting to Change: Forest Tenure in Canada's Boreal Plains Ecozone (Oral, Session 10)	92
Hlásny Tomáš, Turčáni Marek, Bucha Tomáš and Sitková Zuzana - Climate Change Impacts on Population Dynamics of <i>Ips typographus</i> (L.) Using Fine Scale Climate Change Scenario (Oral, Session 5)	93
Hogg E.H. (Ted) and Kurz Werner A. - Canadian Experiences in Large-Scale Monitoring of Climate-Related Disturbances Causing Forest Dieback and Mortality (Oral, Session 14)	94
Hogg E.H. (Ted), Michaelian M., Hall R.J. and Arsenault E.J. - Early-Warning Detection and Assessment of Drought-Induced Dieback and Mortality of Aspen (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>) Forests in Western Canada (Oral, Session 13)	95
Holmgren Peter - Can Experiences of Carbon Sequestration in Swedish Forests over the Past Century Be Replicated? (Oral, Session 16)	96
Huber M. and Sterba H. - Simulating Tree Growth Under Climate Change Using Altitudinal Shift as Proxy (Oral, Session 4)	97
Idinoba M.E., Nkem J., Kalame F. and Coulibaly Y. - A Framework for Vulnerability Assessment of Non-Timber Forest Goods for Planning Adaptation to Climate Change and Variability in West Africa (Oral, Session 11)	98
Idinoba P.A., Defoer T., Idinoba M.E. and Nkem J. - Adapting Forest Ecosystems to Climate Change: Implications for Participatory Learning and Action Research Platforms in Bridging Forest Science-Policy-Practice Interfaces (Oral, Session 9)	99
Imbach Pablo, Locatelli Bruno and Guillermo Molina Luis - Impacts of Climate Change on Hydrological Ecosystem Functions in Mesoamerica (Oral, Session 7)	100
Innes J.L., Nitschke C.R. and Ogden A.E. - Modelling Impacts and Assessing the Willingness to Adapt to the Impacts of Climate Change in Western Canada (Oral, Session 15)	101
Ivanova G., Bogorodskaja A., Krasnosheikova E., Kovaleva N., Perevosnikova V., Conard S. and McRae D. - Fire Impact on Components of Forest Ecosystems of Central Siberia, Russia (Poster, Session 3)	102
Jang Keunchang, Kang Sinkyu and Kim Joon - Estimation of Evapotranspiration Using MODIS Products at Flux Measurement Sites in Northeast Asia (Poster, Session 13)	103
Je S.M., Woo S.Y., Ryang S.Z., Park J.H. and Sung J.H. - Effect of Soil Temperature Fluctuations on Root Respiration under Global Warming (Poster, Session 1)	104
Jõgiste Kalev and Metslaid Marek - Forest Regeneration and Changing Climate (Oral, Session 6)	105
Johnsen K.H., Butnor J.R., Kush J.S., Nelson C.D. and Schmidting R.C. - Increasing the Resiliency and Carbon Sequestration Potential of Gulf Coast Forests in the United States (Oral, Session 12)	106
Johnston Mark, Williamson Tim and Hesseln Hayley - Adaptive Capacity in Publicly Owned Forest Landscapes: Forestry Institutions in Canada (Oral, Session 10)	107
Kahle Hans-Peter - Elasticity of Tree Radial Growth to Environmental Stress (Oral, Session 4)	108
Kalame Fobissie B., Brockhaus Maria, Nkem Johnson, Idinoba Monica and Kanninen Markku - Using Forest Ecosystem Goods and Services for Climate Change Adaptation in Burkina Faso and Ghana: Policy Gaps and Constraints (Oral, Session 11)	109

Kang Synkyu, Jang Keunchang, Kim Sohee and Lee Bora - Monitoring Vegetation Phenology and Biophysical Variables Using MODIS Products (Oral, Session 13)	110
Karlinasari L. and Nugroho N. - Promoting the Plantation of Trees with Low-Density Wood as a Strategy to Reduce Forest Degradation in Indonesia (Poster, Session 17)	111
Karlsson, K. - Locating Forest Field Experiments According to Present and Future Climate (Poster, Session 13)	112
Kauhanen H., Wallenius T., Kuuluvainen T., Aakala T. and Mikkola K. - Extensive Mortality of Spruce Forests in Arkhangelsk Region: Satellite Image Analysis (Poster, Session 13)	113
Kawanabe A., Akita N., Seike T., Iijima Y. and Tarata K. - LCA Analysis of Timber House Construction in Japan Focusing on Calculating LCCO ₂ in Basic Materials (Oral, Session 18)	114
Kazuharu Ogawa - Mathematical Analysis of Change in Forest Carbon Use Efficiency With Stand Development: A Case Study on <i>Abies veitchii</i> (Poster, Session 1)	115
Kellomäki S., Kilpeläinen A. and Peltola H. - The Risk of Abiotic Forest Damages Will Alter Under the Climate Change in the Boreal Conditions (Oral, Session 3)	116
Khan M.S.I. - Climate Change Considerations in Management of Mangrove Forests: Review and Recommendation for Sundarbans Reserve Forest, Bangladesh (Oral, Session 11)	117
Khanina L., Bobrovsky M., Komarov A., Mikhailov A., Shanin V. and Bykhovets S. - Modelling the Dynamics of Vegetation Diversity Under Different Forest Management Regimes and Climate Change Scenarios (Oral, Session 6)	118
Kim Sohee, Kang Sinkyu and Lim Jong-Hwan - A Phenology Model to Predict Spring Canopy Onset of Vegetation in Korea Using MODIS (Poster, Session 1)	119
Kim T.K., Yoo B.H., Kim M., Lee J.H., Lee S.M and Lee S.J. - Bioclimatic Classification for Climate Change Impact Assessment: Implication for Forest Conservation (Poster, Session 13)	120
Kimbell Abigail R. - Managing Forests in an Era of Climate Change: Perspectives from the U.S. Forest Service (Keynote)	121
Kobelkov Mikhail - National Programmes on Monitoring and Minimization of Consequences of Forest Mortality (Oral, Session 14)	122
Kohler M., Nägele G. and Bauhus J. - Can Intensive Thinning Regimes Mitigate Drought Effects on Norway Spruce? (Oral, Session 6)	123
Kolström Marja, Lindner Marcus, Garcia-Gonzalo Jordi, Delzon Sylvain and Kremer Antoine - Adaptation Measures to Changing Climate in Different EU Countries (Oral, Session 10)	124
Komarov A., Mikhailov A., Shanin V., Bykhovets S. - Modelling Soil Organic Matter Dynamics and Forest Nutrition Under Climate Change (Oral, Session 6)	125
Koné M., Bassett T. J. and Nkem J.N. - Burning Regimes and Dynamics of the Sudanian Savanna Ecosystems: The Case Study of Katiali, Côte d'Ivoire (Oral, Session 3)	126
Konkin Doug - Learning to Deal with Climate Change and Catastrophic Forest Disturbances (Keynote)	127
Kostiainen Katri, Kaakinen Seija, Saranpää Pekka and Vapaavuori Elina - Effects of Climate Change on Wood Properties: Overview of Current Knowledge (Oral, Session 1)	128
Kostovska Diyana - Mapping Biologically Important Forests - Towards the Restoration of a Trans-European Forest Mega-corridor (Oral, Session 7)	129
Krauss Ken W., Doyle Thomas W., Conner William H., Day Richard H. and Duberstein Jamie A. - Climate Change Impact on Soil Salinity and Tree Growth of Tidal Freshwater Forested Wetlands of the South-Eastern United States (Oral, Session 4)	130
Krishnamurthy Yelugere L., Nanda, A. and Prakasha Hiregouja M. - Phenological Response to Changing Environmental Conditions of Western Ghats, Southern India (Poster, Session 1)	131
Kruger Linda E. - Resilience and Adaptation in Communities in Alaska (Oral, Session 10)	132
Kurz Werner A. - Can Forest Mitigation Strategies also Address Adaptation Objectives? (Oral, Session 17)	133

Kuylenstierna Johan - Climate Change, Pollutant Deposition and the Ozone Situation Worldwide: Implications for, and the Role of, Forests (Oral, Session 5)	134
Labbé Sylvain - The Convenient Truth (Oral, Session 18)	135
Lang'at J.K.S., Kirui B., Kairo J.G. and Bosire J.O. - Forest Assessment for Improved Mangrove Forest Management in Kenya (Poster, Session 11)	136
Larsen J. Bo – “Forest Development Types”- Developing Adaptive Forest Management in a Science-Stakeholder Dialogue (Oral, Session 9)	137
Larson Brent - Phytosanitary Issues Related to Climate Change, Invasive Alien Species and Trade: How to Use the Framework of the International Plant Protection Convention for the Management of Forest Health (Keynote)	138
Larwanou M., Illiassou M. and Moustapha M.A. - Contribution of Farmer-Managed Tree Natural Regeneration to Environmental and Climatic Risks Minimization in the Sahelian Part of Niger (West Africa) (Oral, Session 8)	139
Lasco R., Jaranilla-Sánchez P., Delifino R. and Rangasa M. - Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation in Forest and Natural Resources Management in The Philippines: The Role of Local Governments (Oral, Session 9)	140
La Spina S., De Cannière C., Sawadogo A.-K., Mayer F., Molenberg J.-M. and Grégoire J.-C. - Impacts of Frost on Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> L.) Susceptibility to Scolytine Ambrosia Beetles (Oral, Session 3)	141
Latta Gregory, Temesgen Hailemariam, Adams Darius and Barrett Tara - Potential Forest Productivity Impacts of Climate Change on Forests of the United States Pacific Northwest (Oral, Session 4)	142
Lavigne M.B., Foster R.J. and Goodine G.K. - Impacts of Harvesting and Thinning on Carbon Dynamics in a Balsam Fir Ecosystem in New Brunswick, Canada (Oral, Session 6)	143
Le Mellec Anne, Vogt-Altena Holger, Reinhardt Annett, Gerold Gerhard and Michalzik Beate - Does Climate Change Promote Insect Outbreak Situations and Altered Forest Ecosystem Functions? (Oral, Session 5)	144
Lim J.-H., Chun J.H., Woo S.Y. and Kim Y.K. - Increased Decline of Korean Fir Forest Caused by Climate Change in Mountain Halla, Korea (Oral, Session 13)	145
Lindgren D. - Immediate Genetic Changes in Tree Deployment and Breeding Because of Global Warming (Poster, Session 12)	146
Lindner Marcus, Garcia-Gonzalo Jordi, Kolström Marja, Netherer Sigrid and Schopf Axel - Impacts of Climate Change on Forests in Europe – A Review of the State of Knowledge in Different European Regions (Oral, Session 7)	147
Liu Yongqiang, Stanturf John and Goodrick Scott - Evaluating Future Wildfire Risk Using the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (Oral, Session 3)	148
Locatelli Bruno and Imbach Pablo - A Conceptual Model for Studying the Effects of Landscape Connectivity on Ecosystem Adaptation to Climate Change in Central America (Oral, Session 2)	149
Locatelli Bruno, Imbach Pablo, Guillermo Molina Luis, Palacios Elena - The Future of Forest Fires in Central America Under Climate Change and Socio-Economic Scenarios (Oral, Session 3)	150
Lorenz M., Nagel H.D., Granke O. and Kraft P. - Forest Monitoring and Critical Loads Assessments as a Scientific Basis for Air Pollution Control in Europe (Oral, Session 5)	151
Luquez V.M.C., Achinelli F.G., Cortizo S. and Guamét J.J. - Responses to Flooding of Poplar Clones Planted in the Paraná River Delta, Argentina (Poster, Session 1)	152
Lyytikäinen-Saarenmaa P. and Holopainen M. - Monitoring Insect Defoliation of Forests by Means of Laser Scanning and Hyperspectral Imagery (Oral, Session 13)	153
Maier C.A., Johnsen K.H., Pritchard S., Tyree M., Seiler J. and Dougherty P. - Genotype X Silviculture Interactions on Productivity and Carbon Allocation in Young Loblolly Pine Plantations (Oral, Session 12)	154

Manley Bruce and Maclaren Piers - Impact of Carbon Trading on Forest Management in New Zealand (Oral, Session 17)	155
Mansourian Stephanie and Belokurov Alexander - Role of Protected Forest Areas in Adaptation to Climate Change: WWF's Perspective (Oral, Session 9)	156
Masripatin Nur - Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation Issues into Forest Policies and Management Practices: A Way to Bring Concepts into Actions (Keynote)	157
Maroschek M., Seidl R., Lindner M., Garcia-Gonzalo J. and Lexer M.J. - Climate Change Impacts on Goods and Services of European Mountain Forests – A Review (Oral, Session 7)	158
Marozas Vitas, Racinkas Jonas and Bartkevicius Edmundas - Influence of Surface Fires on Vegetation Diversity in Hemiboreal <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> Forests Under Climate Change Conditions (Poster, Session 3)	159
Maskani Jifroudi Hamid Reza, Meraji Ali, Khomami Maryam Haghyghy, Dazeh Leila and Firoozan Amir Hossein - Studying the Relationship of Forest Cover and Run Off Volume from Precipitation Geographic Information System (GIS) (Poster, Session 7)	160
Matala J., Niemelä P. and Nuutinen T. - The Role of Pest Insect Damages in the Development of Regional Forest Resources Under Changing Climate (Oral, Session 15)	161
Matthews Ralph - New Institutional Analysis and the Adaptive Management of Climate Change: Implications for the Forestry Industry and Forestry-Based Communities (Oral, Session 10)	162
Mattsson Eskil, Ostwald Madelene, Nissanka S.P. and Achard Frédéric - Estimating Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Sri Lanka – A Pilot Project of a Potential REDD Mechanism (Oral, Session 11)	163
Mbogga Michael and Hamann Andreas - Climate Change Adaptation for Forestry in Western Canada: A Sensitivity Analysis of Model Predictions (Oral, Session 15)	164
McCracken R.D., Stanturf J.A. and Mikkola E. - Using GFIS and Other New Technologies for Effective Communication and Sharing of Forestry Information Across Disparate Networks in the Global Community (Poster, Session 15)	165
Meshkova Valentyna - Foliage Browsing Insect Outbreaks in Ukraine: Incidence, Duration and Severity (Oral, Session 5)	166
Mhando Nyangila Jacob - The Use of Indigenous Knowledge in Monitoring and Prediction of Climate Change and Seasonal Cycles among the Local Communities in Kenya (Oral, Session 11)	167
Miah Md. Danesh and Shin Man Yong - The Forestry Sector of Bangladesh in Global Warming Mitigation: The Future Approach to Forestry Practice (Poster, Session 17)	168
Moen Jon, Kivinen Sonja and Berg Anna - Effects of Forestry on the Winter Grazing Resources of Semi-Domesticated Reindeer (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>) in Sweden (Oral, Session 6)	169
Moore Beverly A. and Allard Gillian B. - Climate Change Impacts on Forest Health: Insect Pests, Diseases and Invasive Alien Species (Oral, Session 5)	170
Muller J. and Sparks D. - Finding the Deforestation, Energy and Food Security Nexus: Is a PCD Approach to Adaptation the Link? (Poster, Session 8)	171
Müller Michael M. and Hantula Jarkko - Can Long Distance Gene Flow Contribute to Adaptation of Fungal Pathogen Populations to Changing Climate? (Oral, Session 5)	172
Murdiyarso Daniel, Malmer Anders and Ilstedt Ulrik - Tropical Forests, Water and Carbon Sequestration: Exploring the Opportunities to Link Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change (Oral, Session 17)	173
Murdiyarso Daniel, Santoso Heru and Idinoba Monica - The Challenges of Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability Using an Ecosystem Approach (Oral, Session 13)	174
Murthy I. K. and Ravindranath N. H. - Forest Policies: Vulnerability and Adaptation in Forest Sector in India (Oral, Session 9)	175
Nabuurs V., van den Wyngaert V., Hengeveld G. and Schelhaas M.J. - European Scale Forest Resource Modelling at High Resolution Based on Inventory Data (Oral, Session 15)	176

Nagarajan B., Krishnamoorthy M. and Pandiarajan C. - Fruit Dormancy in <i>Ceriops decandra</i> : An Adaptation to Overcome Climate Adversary? (Poster, Session 1)	177
Nagarajan B., Pandiarajan and Krishnamoorthy M. - Managing True Mangroves: Are Bird Pollinated Taxa the Most Vulnerable to Climate Changes? (Poster, Session 7)	178
Nantongo J.S., Okullo J.B.L., Eilu G. and Cavers S. - Genetic Structure of <i>Albizia gummifera</i> : Implications for Restoration in East Africa and Madagascar (Poster, Session 12)	179
Nazimova D.I., Drobushevskaya O.V., Kofman G.B. and Konovalova M.E. - Analyses of Adaptation Strategies of Forest-Forming Tree Species and Forest Stands Based on Reconstruction of Their Post-Fire Successions (Poster, Session 7)	180
Nebel Barbara and Love Simon - A New Zealand Supply Chain Research Strategy for Green Buildings and the Potential Impact on Climate Change (Oral, Session 18)	181
Netherer S., Lindner M., Garcia-Gonzalo J. and Schopf A. - Potential Effects of Climate Change on Herbivores and Pathogens – A Review and an Example (Oral, Session 5)	182
Neupane P.R. - Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD): A Revenue Source for Natural Forest Management by Communities in Vietnam (Poster, Session 17)	183
Ngono Grégoire – A Strategic Approach to Ensure Sustainable Management of Forest Resources of Cameroon to Climate Change (Poster, Session 17)	184
Nkem J.N. and Locatelli B. - Tropical Forest Values and Vulnerability to Climate Change (Oral, Session 11)	185
Nomi Frederick Nubed - Forests and Climate Change - Lessons From Insects (Poster, Session 5)	186
Novák Jiří, Slodičák Marian and Dušek David - Positive Effect of Thinning on Throughfall as Possible Way for Adaptation of Young Scots Pine Monocultures to Changing Climate (Oral, Session 6)	187
Nsoh Walters - Adaptation to Climate Change in Certified Forests – The International Trade in Timber and Adaptive Forest Management (Oral, Session 9)	188
Ojha Nabaghan - Towards Developing Options and Indicators on Community-Based Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in the Era of Climate Change - Case Study From Orissa, India (Oral, Session 8)	189
Oli Bishwa Nath - Possibility of Adopting REDD Principle in the Context of Nepal (Oral, Session 9)	190
Olsson Matts - Uptake of Carbon in Swedish Forest Ecosystems (Oral, Session 16)	191
O'Neill G.A. and Nigh G. - Dynamic Height-Age Functions Used to Account for Varying Effects of Climate Change on Tree Height Growth (Oral, Session 4)	192
Örlander Göran - The Potential for Global Carbon Uptake by Using Swedish Forestry Practice (Oral, Session 16)	193
Osman Elasha Balgis - Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change and the Links to Sustainable Development in Africa (Keynote)	194
Ostwald M., Ravindranath N.H., Palm M. and Berndes G. - Biomass Energy and Carbon Sequestration Potential of Wastelands in India (Oral, Session 17)	195
Park P.S., Lee K.H., Jung M.H., Shin H., Jang W., Bae K. and Lee J. - The Effect of Environmental Changes on Forest Disturbances in South Korea (Oral, Session 3)	196
Parks C.G. and MIREN - On the Rise - Plant Invasions into Mountain Forests (Poster, Session 5)	197
Paul T.S.H., Watt M.S. and Kirschbaum M.U.F. - New Zealand's Potential Forest Responses and Threats Under Climate Change - An Overview of Related Research (Oral, Session 4)	198
Pekin Burak, Boer Matthias, Macfarlane Craig and Grierson Pauline - Stand Level Variation in Leaf Area to Sapwood Area Ratio along an Aridity Gradient in the Jarrah Forest of South-Western Australia (Oral, Session 1)	199
Peredo-Videa Bernardo - Biodiversity Conservation, Forest Management and Climate Change Adaptation in Bolivia Under the Current Political Context: Implications for Policies and Conservation (Oral, Session 7)	200

Pérez-Salicrup, D. R. and Patiño-Conde, P. - Changes in Liana and Tree Community Structures as Consequence of Increased Hurricane Frequency in Tropical Forests in Cozumel, Mexico (Oral, Session 3)	201
Pinkard Libby and Battaglia Michael - Predicting the Impacts of Pest Attack on Forest Productivity Under Changing Climate (Oral, Session 4)	202
Potvin Catherine - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation: Negotiations and Methodological Issues (Keynote)	203
Poyer Joel and Ramessar Candice R., MSc. - Counteracting Desertification and Bushfires Through Reforestation: The Case of Zion Hill, Saint-Vincent and The Grenadines (Poster, Session 9)	204
Pulhin Florencia B. and Lasco Rodel D. - Impacts of and Adaptation to Climate Change of Forest Biodiversity in The Philippines (Oral, Session 11)	205
Rahamtalla Hamad Ibrahim - Factors Affecting the Role of Urban and Peri-Urban Forests in Adaptation to Changing Climatic Conditions in Khartoum State, Sudan (Oral, Session 8)	206
Ray D. and C. P. Quine C.P. - Combining Species Suitability Models and Expert Knowledge to Underpin Policy Development for Scottish Forests in a Changing Climate (Oral, Session 15)	207
Régnière J. - Predicting Insect Continental Distributions from the Physiology of Individuals (Keynote)	208
Reithmaier L.M., Casalegno S. and Fernández-Rosa V.L. - Protection Forest and their Vulnerability in Europe: A First Approach for Harmonized Large Area Mapping in Alpine Area (Oral, Session 7)	209
Requardt Aljoscha, Köhl Michael and Schuck Andreas - Means of Combating Forest Dieback – EU Support for Maintaining Forest Health and Vitality (Oral, Session 14)	210
Reynolds Phillip E. and Brand Gordon - Modelling Carbon Assimilation for an Ontario Boreal Spruce Plantation – Canadian Carbon Program (CCP) (Poster, Session 17)	211
Reynolds Phillip E. and Brand Gordon - Modelling Carbon Assimilation for Boreal Jack Pine Plantations – Ontario Long-Term Soil Productivity (LTSP) Study (Poster, Session 17)	212
Rijal Arun - Exploring Forest Management Solutions in Traditional Knowledge System to Address Climate Change Issues (Oral, Session 11)	213
Ripullone F., Borghetti M., Raddi S. and Magnani F. - Mediterranean Forest Under Climate Change Scenarios: the Response to Increase of Drought (Oral, Session 1)	214
Robledo Carmenza, Blaser Jürgen, Clot Nicole and Hammill Anne - Adaptation to Climate Change in Forest Ecosystems Affected by the Poor (Poster, Session 9)	215
Rodríguez-Bilella P. - A Battlefield for Forests: An Actor-Oriented Analysis for Studying Local Institutions and the Deployment of Ecosystem Services in Central Argentina (Poster, Session 8)	216
Romano Raoul and Cilli Stefano - Italian Forestry Measures Introduced through the New Challenges of the European Silviculture (Poster, Session 9)	217
Sanchez P.A.J. Lasco R.D. and Espaldon M.V.O. - Community-Based Activities in Disaster-Prone Upland Areas as a Means of Adapting to a Changing Climate in The Philippine Countryside (Poster, Session 8)	218
Sande Susan, Nicolson Sue and Gordon Ian - Flowering Calendar of a Protected Forest: a Case Study of Arabuko Sokoke Forest, Kenya (Poster, Session 1)	219
Sant’Anna C.M. and Pedroso D.O. - Estimate of Forest Damage Using the “Potential Level of Forest Destruction by Fire” Methodology (Poster, Session 3)	220
Santoso Heru, Hairiah Kurniatun, Tohari Adrin, Soedradjat Gatot M., Herawati Hety - Impacts of Climate Change on Landslides and Using Vegetation as an Adaptation Option to Reduce the Landslide Risk (Oral, Session 7)	221
Saxena Vivek - Mitigation and Adaptation Potential of Agroforestry: Adaptation Implications and Policy Options for Meeting Challenges of Sustainable Livelihoods and Environmental Sustainability (Oral, Session 8)	222

Schoene Dieter - Forest Health and Adaptation of Forest Management: Perspectives from the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) (Keynote)	223
Seidl R., Rammer W. and Lexer M.J. – Sustainable Forest Management under Climate Change: Adaptation Strategies Based on a Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment (Oral, Session 15)	224
Semerci A., Sanlı B.N., Sahin O., Çelik O., Balkız B., Ceylan S. and Argun N. - Examination of Tree Mortality in Semi-Arid Central Anatolian Region of Turkey during the Last Six-Year Period (2002-2007) (Poster, Session 2)	225
Seppälä Risto - Increasing Knowledge about Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change: An Expert Panel Approach (Keynote)	226
Seyoum Yigremachew and Fetene Masresha - Plant Water Relation and Growth Response of <i>Cordia africana</i> Lam. Seedlings of Three Seed Sources Exposed to Different Water Regimes (Poster, Session 1)	227
Sharma S. K. - Nurturing Water and Protecting Soil Through Forest Cover – A Case Study from India (Poster, Session 7)	228
Shchegolev A.A. - Assessment and Management of High Conservation Value Forests in the Context of Mass Forest Mortality (Oral, Session 14)	229
Shiota Montandon Erika and Simões André Felipe - Alternatives for Deforestation Reduction in the Legal Amazonian (Oral, Session 9)	230
Sicoli G., Bruno G., Boncaldo E. and Luisi N. - Occurrence and Effects of Two Micromycetes in a Relict European Beech Forest in Southern Italy (Poster, Session 5)	231
Silveira Wrege Marcos, Victoria Higa Rosana Clara, Miranda Brites Ricardo, Aparecida de Sousa Valderês, Caramori Paulo Henrique, Braga Hugo José and Radin Bernadete - Climate Change and <i>Araucaria angustifolia</i> Bert O. Ktze Conservation Strategy (Poster, Session 7)	232
Sioen G., Roskams P., Verschelde P, Van der Aa B. and Verstraeten A. - Monitoring the Masting Behaviour of Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>) in Flanders (Belgium) (Poster, Session 1)	233
Siregar I.Z., Resmisari R.S. and Siregar U.J. - Chloroplast DNA (cpDNA) Variation of <i>Shorea leprosula</i> in Indonesia Assessed by PCR-RFLP (Poster, Session 12)	234
Skorupski M. and Magowski W. – How to Protect Forests Against Aggressive Biotic Factors Under Changing Climate Scenarios? (Oral, Session 5)	235
Soares P., Tomé M., Borges P., Marques S. and Borges J.G. - Impact of Land-Use and Climatic Changes on Pulpwood Production and Carbon Sequestration Sustainability at the Landscape Level (Poster, Session 15)	236
Spathelf P. and Bolte A. - Adaptation of Forest Management in Brandenburg: Challenges in a Climate Change ‘Hotspot’ of Germany (Oral, Session 15)	237
Ssetenda Peter - Local Community's Perception About <i>Lantana camara</i> Wide Spread in Uganda Woodland Forests (Poster, Session 5)	238
Ståhl Göran - Swedish Forests – Historical Development and Plausible Scenarios for the Next Century (Oral, Session 16)	239
Stanturf J.A., Madsen Palle, Löff Magnus and Liu Yongqiang - Restoration for the Future: The Challenge from Global Change (Oral, Session 7)	240
Stanturf J.A., Stokes B.J., Buford M.A. and Perdue J.H. - Expanded Silvicultural Approaches to Sustainable Bioenergy Plantations to Mitigate Climate Change (Poster, Session 6)	241
Staupendahl Kai and Möhring Bernhard - How to Integrate Natural Risks into a Simple Decision Model for Forest Production (Oral, Session 15)	242
St. Clair J. Bradley, Howe Glenn T. and Wang Tongli - Approaches to Determining Appropriate Provenances for Future Climates (Oral, Session 12)	243
Suresh H.S., Dattaraja H.S. and Sukumar R. - Sensitivity of Tropical Dry Forests to Climate Variability: Results of an 18-Year Study from Mudumalai, Southern India (Oral, Session 3)	244

Svanæs J., Folvik K. and Wærp S. - Project MIKADO – Documenting the Environmental Properties of Wood Products in Norway (Oral, Session 18)	245
Svensson Johan and Majewski Przemyslaw - Sustainable Development through Building Adaptive Capacity: The Model Forest Circumboreal Initiative (Oral, Session 10)	246
Tchebakova N.M. and Parfenova E.I. - Major Conifers Distribution in Russia in a Warming Climate (Oral, Session 2)	247
Tekpetey S.L., Frimpong-Mensah Nana K. and Idinoba M. - Impact Assessment of Climate Change on Fuelwood Production and Utilization in Ghana: An Essential Tool for Adaptation (Poster, Session 8)	248
Tewari Ashish, Singh Vishal, Tewari Pankaj and Phartyal Pushkin - Developing Community Forestry Management For Mitigating Climate Change Impact In Indian Himalayan Region (Poster, Session 17)	249
Tiwari Prakash C. - Integrated Forest Management for Restoration of Ecosystem Services and Rural Livelihood Security in Himalaya, in View of Impacts of Climate Change (Oral, Session 8)	250
Tkacz Borys - Monitoring Large-Scale Tree Mortality in the United States of America (Oral, Session 14)	251
Tkacz Borys, Moody Ben, Villa Castillo Jaime and Fenn Mark E. - Forest Health in North America: Current Conditions, Historic Trends, and Future Risks (Oral, Session 5)	252
Tomé Margarida, Barreiro Susana, Tomé José, Marto Marco, Soares Paula, Faias Sónia - Regional/Country Scale Forest Resource Simulation in a Changing Environment (Oral, Session 15)	253
Tsalefac M. and Manetsa R.V. - Climate Change in the Congolese Dense Forest (Oral, Session 13)	254
Ulvcrona Thomas - Evaluating Macroscopic Effects of Impregnation with Hydrophobic Oil on Norway Spruce (<i>Picea abies</i> L. Karst) Mature Sapwood Structure (Oral, Session 6)	255
Van Damme Laird, R.P.F. - Canada's Forest Sector Capacity to Adapt: The Need for Increased Levels of Innovation (Oral, Session 10)	256
van Zonneveld M. J., Jarvis A., Dvorak W., Koskela J., Vinceti B. and Snook L. - Impact of Climate Change on Distribution and Performance of Tropical Pine Species in Central America and Southeast Asia (Oral, Session 11)	257
Velasco-Conde T., Feito I., Aranda I., Alía R. and Majada J. - Early Response to Drought of <i>Pinus pinaster</i> Aiton Clones (Poster, Session 12)	258
Vuorinen Martti - Climatic Factors Affecting the Needlecast Epidemics Caused by <i>Lophodermium seditiosum</i> (Poster, Session 5)	259
Waldmann Patrik - Tree Breeding In A Changing Environment: Genetic Gain and Environmental Canalization (Oral, Session 12)	260
Wang Tongli, Hamann Andreas, Aitken Sally, O'Neill Greg, Yanchuk Alvin and Spittlehouse Dave - Use of Genetic Variation in Forest Trees to Adapt to Changing Climate (Oral, Session 12)	261
Wang Xianli and Hamann Andreas - Disturbance-Driven Land Cover Changes in Western Canada Under Observed and Projected Climate Change (Oral, Session 2)	262
Weibel P., Reineking B., Conedera M. and Bugmann H. - Modelling forest fire ignition and propagation for two fire-prone regions in Switzerland (Poster, Session 3)	263
Weyerhaeuser Horst, Phengvichith Vanthong and Badenoch Nathan - Chances and Challenges for a Resource-Depending Society to Mitigate Negative Impact of Forest Loss Through Climate Change (REDD) Support Mechanisms (Poster, Session 17)	264
Williamson Tim B. - Adaptive Capacity in Forest-Based Communities (Oral, Session 10)	265
Wolf A. and Bugmann H. - Impact of Future Droughts on Forested Mountain Catchments: Carbon Storage and Hydrology (Oral, Session 2)	266
Wolfslehner Bernhard and Vacik Harald - A Cognitive Mapping Approach to Estimate Current and Future Functionality of Non-Timber Forest Products and Services (Oral, Session 6)	267

Woo S.Y., Lee D.K., Lee Y.K., Ryang S.Z., Lee S.H., Je S.M., Cheng C.H., Baek S.G. and Lee E.D. - Photosynthesis Rate and Antioxidant Enzyme Activities in Polluted and Non-Polluted Areas in The Philippines (Poster, Session 1)	268
Wood Michael - Sweden and the United States: Partners in Solving the Problem of Global Climate Change (Keynote)	269
Woodall C.W. and Liknes G.C. - Relationships Between Forest Fine and Coarse Woody Debris Carbon Stocks Across Latitudinal Gradients in the United States as an Indicator of Climate Change Effects (Poster, Session 13)	270
Woodall C.W., Oswalt C.M., Westfall J.A., Perry C.H. and Nelson M.D. - An Indicator of Tree Migration in Forests of the Eastern United States (Oral, Session 2)	271
Woodall C.W., Skog K.E., Heath L.S., Smith J., Perry C.H. and Piva R. - Carbon Pools and Fluxes for United States Forest Ecosystems and Products: Results of the USDA Forest Service National Sustainability Report (Oral, Session 13)	272
Yanchuk Alvin and Allard Gillian - The Impacts of Tree Improvement Programmes on Forest Health: The Past Models, and Future Approaches Needed in Changing Climates (Oral, Session 12)	273
Yeboah E. and Sohi S.P. - Improving Soil Carbon Accumulation through Integrated Soil Fertility Management (Poster, Session 17)	274
Zachara Tadeusz and Gil Wojciech - Possibilities and Limitation in Changing of Species Composition – Tree Disease Phenomena in Poland (Poster, Session 5)	275
Zang Christian, Rothe Andreas and Pretzsch Hans – Drought Responses of Different Tree Species in Bavaria: Evidence from Tree Ring Growth and Wood ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) (Oral, Session 1)	276
Zida Didier, Savadogo Patrice, Tiveau Daniel, Dayamba Djibril, Sawadogo Louis, Tigabu Muluaem and Christer Odén Per - Disturbance in Sudanian Savanna Woodlands and Ecological Responses Under Climate Change: The Contribution of Long-Term Ecological Research on Fire, Grazing and Selective Tree Cutting (Oral, Session 2)	277