

As a consequence of global changes, modern forestry has been facing multiple challenges over the past decades, many of them in the context of conflicts over priorities of forest uses and forest services, including the production of wood and non-wood forest products, the conservation of biodiversity, the sequestration of carbon, the protection of water and soil.

Forests contribute in many ways to human well-being, and many of these contributions can be enhanced by intelligently managing the forest resource. Sustainable management of forests is an art that requires, among other factors, scientific knowledge, practical experience, and a way of economic thinking that balances short- and long-term expectations.

International networking and sharing of experiences is among the most crucial sources of spreading and advancing sustainable forest management. The **German Alumni Forest Network** has the objective to foster this type of networking, which is also the background for this symposium. In this symposium we focus on the highly diverse functions of forests both as an ecosystem and a resource, where some particular aspects are to be highlighted:

Multi-purpose forestry

Contrary to the segregation approach in which forest management is geared to one or few objectives on a given area, multi-purpose forestry strives to reconcile seemingly contradictory uses by a management approaches that are usually mimicking natural processes. By that, in many cases, it can be shown that intelligent production forestry is not contradicting conservation. Many forest uses, in particular by the rural poor may actually contribute enhancing biodiversity; the goals need to be clearly defined and monitored, by both foresters and conservation biologists in order to avoid misunderstandings. However undisputed, large scale industrial exploitation does not leave much space for multi-functional forestry.

Ecosystem services

Ecosystem services are intensively discussed and recognized as extremely important forest functions. That includes water and soil protection, conservation of biodiversity, improving the micro-climate for example near settlements, filtering out pollutants, increasing air humidity and fostering rainfall in the tropics, among others. However, the economic valuation of these services is not yet fully in place – and only in some few contexts (like carbon sequestration) and regions (e.g. Costa Rica) real markets are developing for these services, which are actually crucial for the survival of mankind.

Non-wood forest products (NWFP)

Non-wood forest products are a wide class of products that are being used from forests all over the world. Most forestry planning, however, is focused in timber production; although in some regions the economic value of high value NWFP is larger. For many rural people, the forest serves as supermarket (for food), hardware store (building materials, tools) and pharmacy (medicinal plants, bark etc.) at the same time. The intelligent integration of the sustainable production of NWFP's according to the local needs is certainly a challenge. In many regions, there are excellent experiences with traditional management schemes. However, when population grows beyond a certain limit or when NWFP's are not only any more harvested for subsistence and local markets, but for the marketing at regional and international level, the resources are rapidly at risk.

Trees outside forests (TOF)

Trees outside the forests is a tree resource that does not fall not under the definition of forest, it is a non-category. In many countries, including India, there are vast volumes of trees outside the forest. And these trees serve similar functions like forests, as a source of wood and non-wood products and as ecosystem-service provider. In addition, they are frequently supporting agricultural production systems. Frequently, while there are clear regulations about the protection

and sustainable management of the forest resource, there is much less about the protection and sustainable management of TOF. And that requires completely different approaches in many aspects of management, including monitoring, harvesting and regeneration.

Participants

The participants should be graduates from German Universities and/or former DAAD scholarship holders, preferably from the Universities of Göttingen and Dresden and from Indian Universities (Alumni) that are involved in academic teaching and research in the corresponding fields of managing forested landscapes and the forest resource. GAForN members are especially encouraged to participate.

Organization

The Symposium is being organized by the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (CeTSAF), Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany and the Forest Research Institute Dehra Dun. It takes place in the framework of the German Alumni Forest Network (GAForN) which is financially support by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and which is borne by the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (CeTSAF), Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, and the Institute of International Forestry and Forest Products, Technical University of Dresden.





German Alumni Forestry Network - GAForN

Venue

The symposium will take place at the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, India. The Institute is acclaimed world over for its contribution in the field of scientific forestry and its history is virtually synonymous with the evolution and development of scientific forestry, not only in India, but over the entire Indian sub-continent. It is set in a lush green estate and spread over 450 hectares, with the outer Himalayas in its backdrop.

Dheradun is the capital city of Uttarakhand state, located about 250km north of New Delhi. The nearest international airport is at New Delhi. Dehradun is well connected with New Delhi by air, road and rail routes. The local airport, located at Jolly Grant, is about 30 km away from the venue. Dehradun is situated at 680m altitude and mean daily max and min temperatures in November are 25.1°C and 10.4 °C respectively. Light woolen clothing will be required. Rainfall is not common during this season.

Important deadlines

27th July 2009: abstract submission; in English language, up to 300 words; 4-5 key words. Please submit to cetsaf@gwdg.de Abstracts will be reviewed. Also submit details of your nationality, passport number, date and place of issue and date of expiry with abstracts.

24th August 2009: Notification to invited participants. The Symposium organizers will cover their travel cost according to the regulations of DAAD. Travel grantees commit themselves to hand in their full papers (5 pages max.) by **30th September 2009**, so that the Symposium's documents can be prepared accordingly.

Program

The final program will be published on <http://www.tropenzentrum.de> once abstracts have been received.

Language

The language of the symposium is English.

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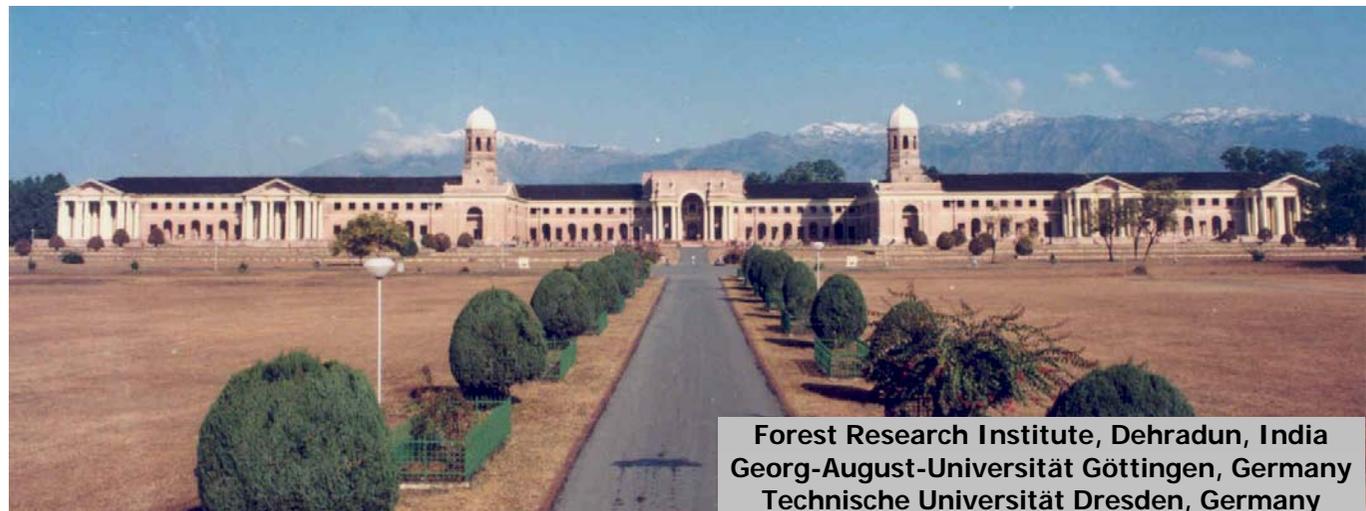
**1st Announcement and
CALL FOR PAPERS**

International Symposium

**MULTI-PURPOSE
FORESTRY:**

**Managing and enhancing
ecosystem services and
production functions of
forests, woodlands and trees
outside the forests**

**9. – 13. November 2009
Dehradun, India**



**Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, India
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany
Technische Universität Dresden, Germany**