

### Biotic stresses

The third session focused on ways of addressing biotic stresses, which are the most striking threat to the sustainability of Eucalyptus plantations given the expanding frontiers of Eucalyptus pests. Advances in molecular techniques to understand pest introductions and pest complexes were presented as well as state-of-the-art biocontrol strategies in different contexts. Multiscale remote sensing of plant pathogens appeared as a promising tool for the management of Eucalyptus plantations.

### Conclusions

The conference pointed out the need for inter-disciplinary research and international collaboration to adapt the management of Eucalyptus plantations to rapid abiotic

changes and expanding frontiers of Eucalyptus pests. Promising advances in molecular techniques as well as in remote sensing and modelling will contribute to improving the management practices in a context of global changes.

### Outlook

Proceedings are available online: [http://www.alphavisa.com/eucalyptus/2018/documents/Eucalyptus2018\\_book-of-abstracts\\_vf.pdf](http://www.alphavisa.com/eucalyptus/2018/documents/Eucalyptus2018_book-of-abstracts_vf.pdf). The most innovative studies presented at the conference will be published in a Special Issue of Forest Ecology and Management. The next meeting of IUFRO WP 2.08.03 will be held in Uruguay.

Find the full unedited report here: <https://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-1/10000/10200/10201/activities/>

## African Forest Policies and Politics

Report by Symphorien Ongolo, Coordinator, IUFRO Working Party 9.05.09 African Forest Politics and Governance

From 24 to 27 September 2018, about 150 participants from 27 countries, including the following African countries - Benin, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, Madagascar, Nigeria, Tunisia - met in Yaoundé, Cameroon, to attend the first IUFRO social sciences conference on "African Forest Policies and Politics" (AFORPOLIS conference 2018). This conference was coordinated by the new IUFRO Working Party on "African forest politics and governance" (IUFRO-WP 9.05.09) and the AFORPOLIS initiative. There were 50 speakers, and 10 poster presentations; keynotes were delivered by Prof. Max Krott (University of Göttingen, Germany), Dr. Richard Eba'a (CIFOR, Cameroon) and Prof. Maria Brockhaus (University of Helsinki, Finland).

The AFORPOLIS conference 2018 sought to advance cutting-edge knowledge on the emergence and evolution of forestland governance in Africa and show that future research in forest policies and politics in Africa should **consider the following issues:**

- The reduction of major gaps in the development of forest policy in Africa caused by the weak connection between global environmental governance initiatives and domestic formal and informal realities in recipient countries that can be traced to the inadequate formulation of many forest policy reforms.
- The promotion of independent national universities and integration centers, since the future of forestlands in Africa will depend on the capacity and power resources of pro-sustainability actors to promote science-based decisions in developing forest-related policies.

### Starting point:

- A better understanding of the social, bureaucratic and financial obstacles to the community forestry system in Africa that substantially reduce the effectiveness of the system throughout the continent and especially in the Congo basin. While conversion of forests to agriculture is rapidly expanding in the majority of African countries, it is noteworthy that individual forest plantations are performing increasingly well in eastern Africa.



Photo by AFORPOLIS

- More consideration for equity, benefit-sharing and gender aspects in forestland policy to encourage greater involvement of pro-poor actors in the governance of African forests

### Scientific outcome and the way forward

A selection of manuscripts submitted to the first edition of AFORPOLIS conference will be considered for publication in a special issue entitled "Forestland Policy and Politics in Africa" of the international peer-review journal, Forest Policy and Economics (Elsevier, IF: 2.49). *Book of Abstracts:* <https://www.iufro.org/publications/proceedings/proceedings-meetings-2018/#c27427>

The second edition of the IUFRO social sciences conference on "African Forest Policies and Politics" will take place in September 2020 in Africa. Information on the host country selection as well as the upcoming conference schedule of the AFORPOLIS conference 2020 will be posted on the AFORPOLIS website: <http://aforpolis.org/>

AFORPOLIS 2018 was organized by the University of Göttingen in Germany, the University of Dschang in Cameroon and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). Four thematic side-events were organized by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the French Research Institute for Sustainable Development (OSFACO project, IRD), the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development of Mozambique, and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Find the full unedited article and a comprehensive meeting report here: <https://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-9/90000/90500/90509/activities/>