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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Timber Committee

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION



JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

SEMINAR ON CLOSE TO NATURE FORESTRY

14-19 October 2003, Zvolen, Slovakia

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

This note contains **information** on the seminar and a **call for contributions**. A preliminary registration form is set out in annex I, which participants are requested to return before **15 May 2003**.

Further information on the seminar will be made available in a second announcement to be issued later. This information as well as summaries of seminar papers will be posted at the Committee's website, as they become available:

<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/joint-committee>

The website of the host country organizer, the Slovak Forest Research Institute, will present up-dated information concerning the seminar as well as detailed practical information on travel and accommodation facilities in Slovakia and Zvolen:

www.fris.sk/en/lvu/podujatia/2003/seminar_nature-forestry.htm

Please forward this information to those specialists who may be interested in the seminar topic.

Introduction

Retrogressive health condition of forests, new knowledge on forest and landscape ecology as well as the increased interest of society in the protection and conservation of the environment call for a change in forest management priorities giving a greater accent to close to nature forest management practices. In many countries vast areas of forest land are covered by even-aged and frequently homogenous forest stands. It is difficult to maintain the needed balance of forest ecosystems in these stands, especially under the influence of negative anthropogenic factors. The way to improvement lies in long-term continued application of silvicultural concepts aimed at reaching a close to nature forest structure.

Close to nature forest management denotes the application of forms of management where self-regulating natural processes are used with the aim of regulating the required functional efficiency of forests. These forms of management also minimize ecological and economic risks.

The concept of close to nature forestry is based on forest management principles in stable stands with native and site adequate tree species.

- Forest is understood as an integrated ecosystem of the forest environment with relationship between site and stand;
- Production targets are subordinated to optimal ecological stability, making use of the productive potential of both site and growth space;
- To a large extent the application of self-regulating processes is required as well as securing rotations by natural regeneration;
- The quality of production needs to be improved by systematic tending;
- The high stability of stands and their operational safety are secured by natural internal and external spatial arrangement;
- The proscription of clear cuttings is necessary;
- The goal is the assurance of a permanently healthy, stable, well-productive forest providing high public benefits.

These characteristics of the structure of natural forests should be systematically maintained by adopting adequate measures in regard to tending and regeneration felling.

Objectives of the seminar

The objectives of the seminar are to review basic issues aimed at the achievement of close to nature forestry, particularly the following:

- Genetics and silvicultural tools applied in close to nature forestry;
- Establishment of ecologically stable forest stands; Natural regeneration of forests;
- Tending aimed at improving the structure, stability of forests, quality of production and maintenance of tree species composition;

- Site and ecological preconditions of close to nature forestry; Assessment of the present structure of forest stands from the potential one, taking into account diversity and ecological stability as a basis for forest management planning;
- Environmentally sound forest operations; Ecologically acceptable technologies for forest roads construction;
- Policy and economic aspects of close to nature forestry (notably the increasingly global nature of wood markets); Characteristics and assessment of present methods of sustainable forest management.

Target groups

The seminar is aimed at all those involved in forestry, in particular forest policy makers, forest service officials, forest managers, environmental and other non-governmental organizations, representatives of local governments and of research institutions.

Date and venue of the seminar

The seminar will be held from Tuesday 14 October to Sunday 19 October 2003 in Zvolen, Slovakia. Zvolen is located approximately at 200 kilometres from the Slovak capital, Bratislava.

Seminar organization

The seminar is being organized by the Slovak Forest Research Institute (LVÚ) under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training and in co-operation with IUFRO and the European Forest Research Institute (EFI).

Participation

Experts from UNECE region countries and other UN member countries are invited to participate in the seminar.

Languages

The working language of the seminar is English.

Programme overview

<i>Tuesday 14 October</i>	<i>Wednesday 15 October</i>	<i>Thursday 16 October</i>	<i>Friday 17 October</i>	<i>Saturday 18 October</i>	<i>Sunday 19 October</i>
<u>Morning</u> Arrival of participants to Bratislava	<u>8:00-9:00</u> Registration <u>9:00-9:30</u> Opening of the seminar <u>9:30-13:00</u> Genetics and silvicultural aspects in close to nature forestry	<u>8:30-13:00</u> Silvicultural and harvesting methods in close to nature forestry	<u>8:30-19:00</u> All day excursion (lunch during excursion) Theme: management of mountainous areas with occurrence of close to nature forestry mostly, coniferous. Management of gene reserves.	<u>8:00 – 10:00</u> Poster session <u>10:00-12:00</u> Final session, conclusions and recommendations, adoption of the seminar report.	Departure of participants during the day.
<u>14:00</u> Meeting of participants in the Slovak capital Bratislava	<u>13:00-14:30</u> Lunch	<u>13:00-14:30</u> Lunch	<u>12:00 – 12:30</u> Lunch		
<u>14:00-19:00</u> Travel to Zvolen. A short excursion, on the way, areas with occurrence of close to nature mostly in broadleaved forests	<u>14:30-18:00</u> Methods and procedures of forest management planning in close to nature forestry and its ecological aspects	<u>14:30-18:00</u> Policy and economic aspects of close to nature forestry	<u>12:30-17:00</u> Half-day excursion. Areas with occurrence of close to nature mostly of mixed forests and natural processes in virgin forests. <u>17:00-19:00</u> Leisure time.		
<u>20:00</u> Dinner	<u>19:00-22:00</u> Icebreaking party	<u>19:00</u> Dinner	<u>20:00</u> Dinner	<u>19:00</u> Farewell dinner.	

Registration

Participants intending to attend the seminar are invited to fill in the preliminary registration form set out in the Annex 1 by **15 May 2003**. The preliminary registration form should be submitted to organizers and the UN ECE secretariat.

The registration fee is as follows:

- 320 EUR if paid by bank transfer before 30 June 2003
- 350 EUR if paid by bank transfer before 31 August 2003
- 370 EUR if paid during registration on site

The registration fee includes: seminar proceedings, refreshments during breaks, 4 lunches (15, 16, 17, 18 October), 5 dinners (14, 15, 16, 17, 18 October), excursions, as well as other services to be provided during the seminar.

Cancellations

- there is no fee for cancellations received before 31 July 2003
- a processing fee of 20 EUR will be charged for cancellations between 31 July and 15 September 2003
- there will be no refund for cancellations after 15 September 2003

Contributions will be accepted only with a completed registration form and payment of participation fees.

NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR BANK TRANSFER

Name of company receiving funds (beneficiary):	Forest Research Institute
Address of beneficiary:	T. G. Masaryka 22 Zvolen 960 92, Slovak Republic
Account number of beneficiary:	1030-412/0200
Swift code:	SUBA SK BX
Payment title (purpose):	355
Variable symbol (invoice number):	8801
Name of bank where beneficiary has account (beneficiary bank):	Všeobecná úverová banka, a. s.
Beneficiary bank address:	Mlynské Nivy 1 Bratislava 25 829 90, Slovak Republic

Please note that participants themselves should cover bank charges. Participants are kindly requested to indicate the date of the transfer and to send by fax the remittance information from their bank as a proof of payment to the organizing Committee.

Papers

The deadline for submission of abstracts (one page maximum) is **15 July 2003**.

The deadline for submission of papers and posters is **31 August 2003**. Titles of papers and posters should be indicated in the registration form. Proceedings will be available during registration. Instructions to authors are set out in Annex 2.

Meeting venue and travel options

Participants have two basic options upon arrival on Tuesday 14 October:

- **Option 1**: Participants arriving in Bratislava can make use of transportation facilities from Bratislava to Zvolen, provided by the organizers at a cost of 30 EUR. A short excursion on the way will be organized. Please, see below some of the possibilities of reaching Bratislava. The meeting point in Bratislava will be announced later at the seminar web page.
- **Option 2**: Participants can make travel arrangements to Zvolen by themselves, however they will miss the short excursion. Some useful information about travel possibilities is mentioned below.

Participants are asked to indicate their travel option in the registration form. In the case you need assistance with your travel plans, please feel free to contact the organizers.

The seminar web page will provide updated information on the timetable of departures of public transportation means. These may change during the year.

How to get to Bratislava (option 1):

- a) From Vienna airport (Austria) - The bus stop at *Vienna airport* is just at the exit of the airport and buses run from Vienna to Bratislava regularly. The journey from Vienna airport to Bratislava bus station takes approximately 90 minutes. You will need to purchase bus and luggage ticket on board.
- b) From Prague airport (Czech Republic) - There are regular flights from Prague to Bratislava. However, you can also take a bus from the centre of Prague.
- c) From other countries by plane - There are also some direct flights to Bratislava. Please ask your travel agency for this possibility.

How to get to Zvolen (option 2):

For participants wishing to travel to the venue by themselves could be useful the information that Zvolen is located in the Central Slovakia approximately 200 kilometres northeast from the capital Bratislava. There are several possibilities to travel to Zvolen.

- a) From neighbouring countries - It could be convenient for some participants from eastern Europe and neighbouring countries to reach Zvolen (by bus or by train). Please contact your travel agency for this possibility.
- b) From Bratislava - There are regular bus and train connections between Bratislava and Zvolen lasting 3-4 hours. Travelling from Bratislava to Zvolen by car can take up to 3 hours.

- c) From Prague (Czech Republic) - It is expected that as from April 2003 direct flights from Prague to Sliac airport (5 kilometres from Zvolen) will be available. Please ask your travel agency for this possibility.

Please, feel free to contact organizers for assistance in your travel.

Accommodation

Participants are asked to make hotel reservations by themselves. The following accommodation facilities are situated in the centre of Zvolen and at walking distance (5-10 minutes) of the venue of the seminar. Basic information about the hotels is given below (please note that hotel rates costs can change during the year).

	<i>Pension Quatro</i>	<i>Hotel Mestsky</i>	<i>Pension Franco</i>	<i>Polana Hotel</i>
<i>Location</i>	centre	centre	centre	centre
<i>Rooms</i>	1-2 beds	1-2 beds	2-3 beds	1-2 beds
<i>Telephone</i>	+421-45-5323 256, 5323 257	+421-45-5325 108	+421-45-5330 928	+421-45-5320 124, 5320 871, 5320 850
<i>Fax</i>	+421-45-5323 256	+421-45-5429 268	+421-45-5330 928	+421-45-5320 777
<i>E-mail</i>	quatrozv@zv.psg.sk	polana@zv.psg.sk	-	polana@zv.psg.sk
<i>Costs</i>	1000-1300 SKK	800-1000 SKK	1000-1100 SKK	1700-2300 SKK

Please, feel free to contact organizers if you need any assistance with accommodation.

Excursions

Friday 17 October 2003 - Mountainous areas with occurrence of close to nature forestry, mostly coniferous forests and management of gene reserves

In mountainous areas of northern Slovakia forest ecosystems with prevalence of coniferous tree species mainly Norway spruce are dominant. Due to the effects of complex injurious anthropogenic agents, a considerable part of them is endangered. Therefore, securing the gene pool of high mountain Norway spruce is of great importance, particularly by gene base establishment. The excursion route will be located in the region of the High Tatras Mts. and Low Tatras Mts. and will concentrate on examples of natural and managed mountain forests dominated by conifers. The tour stations will include:

- visit to the gene reserve forests of Norway spruce, European larch and silver fir managed using shelterwood and selection systems;
- visit to the Inner-Carpathian spruce-larch forests at the alpine tree limit line in the High Tatras;
- visit to species-rich forests on limestone and spruce forests needing reconstruction at the foothills.

Saturday 18 October 2003 - Areas with occurrence of close to nature forestry, mostly of mixed forests and natural processes in virgin forests

Ecologically the most stable forest stands occur in this vegetation zone. Close to nature management of these forest stands require a high level of professionalism. Spruce-fir-beech primeval forests constitute an unlimited basis of knowledge for the study of their self-regulating processes. The excursion route will visit the region of Slovenské Rudohorie Mts. and the Dobroc Virgin Forest, where fir and beech prevail.

The excursion will also visit a well-preserved technical attraction, the Ciernohorská forest railway dating from the beginning of the twentieth century (1908).

Tuesday 14 October 2003 - Areas with occurrence of close to nature forestry, mostly broadleaved forests

In Malé Karpaty Mts. the beech stands or the stands with prevailing representation of beech create ecologically stable forest ecosystems in which foresters are able to control the self-regulating processes with lower exertion. These forests fulfil all required productive, ecological and environmental functions. The excursion route will visit the Smolenice forest enterprise.

Additional useful information

Climate:

Weather in October is usually stable with fog in the morning and sunny weather during the rest of the day. Maximum air temperature is about 20 °C. Minimum air temperature can drop below 5°C. The precipitation usually does not exceed 20 mm during the whole month. Excursions will be guided in mountainous areas of central and northern Slovakia where the climate is considerably colder and weather changes during a day.

Clothing:

Terrain shoes and raincoats are recommended for the excursion (except that on 14 October 2003).

Passports and visa:

Please note that a visa is necessary for nationals of certain (mostly eastern European) countries. For more information please contact the Slovak embassy in your country or at web page of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.foreign.gov.sk/en/index.html). Please do not hesitate to contact the organizers if you need any assistance in obtaining a visa. Participant will require a valid passport when entering Slovakia.

Money exchange:

The Slovakian currency is the Slovak crown (koruna, shortened Sk in Slovak) having 100 cents (halier). There are coins up to 10 SKK and banknotes from 20 SKK. Approximate exchange rates are as follows:

- 1 EUR = approx. 42 SKK
- 1 USD = approx. 41 SKK

Numerous exchange facilities can be found throughout the country; international credit cards are widely accepted.

Electricity supply:

In Slovakia electricity is supplied at 220 V, 50 Hz. The 2-pin connecting plug is different from that in some other countries e.g. USA, UK, Japan, etc.

Contact information

In case of any questions or if you need any assistance, please, feel free to contact organizers.

Organizing Committee:

Lesnický výskumný ústav – Forest Research Institute

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Up-dated information concerning the seminar can be found at the Internet address:

www.fris.sk/en/lvu/podujatia/2003/seminar_nature-forestry.htm

Seminar documents will be posted at the Joint Committee Internet address:

www.unece.org/trade/timber/joint-committee

Some information on Zvolen

The traces of the settlement of Zvolen date back to the Neolithic Age. Valuable findings connected with the Celtic settlement and also with the Roman expansion in this region have been found in the area of Desolated Castle close to Zvolen. The first Slavs settled this beautiful region in the 6th century. The town Zvolen is one of the oldest towns in Slovakia.

Zvolen has a special position as a forestry centre, where several forestry institutions are located: the Forest Research Institute, the Forestry and Wood Technology Faculties of the Technical University, the Forest Management Planning Institute, the Institute for Forest Education as well as some forest owners associations. Other important forestry institutions are located nearby: the State Forest Enterprise in Banska Bystrica (20 km from Zvolen), the High Forestry School and Forestry Vocational Training School, both in Banska Stiavnica (30 km from Zvolen).

Further information about Zvolen is available at the website:

www.fris.sk/en/lvu/podujatia/2003/seminar_nature-forestry.htm

ANNEX I

Preliminary registration form

SEMINAR ON CLOSE TO NATURE FORESTRY

14-19 October 2003, Zvolen, Slovakia

Please return before 15 May 2003 to:

With copy for information to:

Dr. Miroslav Gecovic
 Forest Research Institute
 Head of Department of Foreign Relations
 and Information Technology
 T.G.Masaryka 22
 SK-960 92 Zvolen
 Slovakia
 Telephone: +421-45-5314 124
 Fax: +421-45-5321 883
 E-mail: gecovic@fris.sk

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 CH-1211 Geneva 10
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 Telephone: +41-22-917 3240
 Fax: +41-22-917 0041
 E-mail: Jorge.Najera@unece.org

Mr./Ms./Dr.

Family Name: First Name:

Title:

Organization/ministry/governmental department:

Full mailing address:

.....

Telephone number (with country code):

Fax number (with country code):

E-mail:

Other requests or comments (e.g. audio-visual equipment, diet).....

.....

I will present (tick the appropriate):

Paper

Poster

Title of paper/poster.....

.....

.....

.....

Transport options (tick the appropriate):

Option 1 (transport from Bratislava with short excursion on the way, 30 EUR)

Option 2 (I will arrive to Zvolen by my own means)

ANNEX II

Instruction to authors

SEMINAR ON CLOSE TO NATURE FORESTRY

14-19 October 2003, Zvolen, Slovakia

Abstracts

Abstracts of posters should be sent electronically by E-mail or by mail on a diskette to the organizing committee. The deadline for submitting abstracts is indicated in the invitation to the seminar. Abstracts should not exceed 2 pages. If necessary list the references.

Title (12 pt, capitals, bold) should be placed in the centre of the first line, 2 empty lines, listed authors (12 pt, capitals), empty line, addresses of the authors (11 pt), empty line, text of the abstract (single line spacing 12 pt), tabs 1.5 cm at the first line of each paragraph.

General recommendations are described below.

Papers

Papers should be sent electronically by E-mail or by mail on a diskette to the organizing committee. The deadline for submitting papers is indicated in the invitation to the seminar. The maximum length of a paper is 10 pages including tables and figures.

Please follow general recommendations below while writing papers.

Structure of papers

- a) *Headline* (12 pt., capitals, bold) - the title of the paper should be concise, describing the solved problem in an explanatory way.
[2 empty lines]
- b) *Full author' (authors') name* (12 pt., capitals) without academic titles is to be placed below the title
[1 empty line]
- c) The name and address of the author's institution including the postal code number, e-mail address (9 pt)
[1 empty line]
- d) *Abstract* (9 pt.)
[1 empty line]
Surname and abbreviated first name: title (9 pt.)
[1 empty line]
Abstract should not contain more than 20 lines + key words (not more than 5 words)
[2 empty lines]
- e) *Introduction*
Chapter headings (12 pt., bold)
- f) *Material and methods*
- g) *Results or knowledge achieved*
- h) *Discussion or evaluation*
- i) *Conclusions*
- j) *References* – must be listed alphabetically by author's names. Each entry in the references must have a citation in the text (author's name, year) in round brackets. Each citation must be translated into English except of the papers in world languages. Example: Ruzicka, M., Miklós, L., 1980: Ecological aspects of town planning of Bratislava. Zivot. Prostr., 14, 3, p. 147–155.

Posters

Preferred poster assembly: not later than on Friday, October 17, 19:00–20:00

Preferred poster disassembly: Saturday, October 18, 17:00-18:00

Poster size: 117×100 cm (width×height)

Please, prepare poster that would fit in to the dimension mentioned above. Board pins will be provided for poster presenters. Each participant will have assigned panel, marked by number. Participants are

responsible for mounting and removing their posters. The poster should be kept on display till 17:00 hours of October 18, 2003. The seminar organizers are not responsible for the posters left on the poster boards after 18:00, October 18, 2003.

Poster authors are requested to be available for questions during the poster session. A poster summary will be published in the proceedings in maximum range of 2 pages including tables and figures.

Tips for effective poster presentations:

Poster title size and text size: Poster must have a title of presentation and author(s)'s name(s). The title of posters must be readable at a distance of 2.5 m minimum, the written text at 1.5 m minimum.

Poster content: Contributors should focus on the introduction, materials and methods, results and discussion, summary and references. Contributors should not crowd too much information into the poster. Instead, they should concentrate on two or three main points and make as easy as possible to follow the path from the rationale of the research to what the current results are.

Who is available to answer questions about the poster? An author's picture next to the title often helps colleagues who have never met the contributor to easily find him/her.

Handouts: if the poster contains references to web addresses, or, more in general, if contributor wants to make available copies of his/her poster, he/she can provide A4/letter size copies of the poster.

General recommendations

Authors are recommended to submit text in MS Word 6.0 or higher (*.doc, *.rtf formats), using Times New Roman, 12 pt. Page should be set up to the following margins: left 3.5 cm, right 1.5 cm, upper 2.5 and lower 2.5 cm, caption 1.25 cm.

The list of titles and authors of the submitted abstracts of papers and poster presentations will be available after August 31, 2003.

Oral presentations

The length of the keynote presentation in each session will be 25 minutes with additional 5 minutes for discussion and for other presentations 15 minutes with additional 5 minutes for discussion.

Seminar proceedings

The proceedings will contain papers and abstracts of posters. Submission of abstracts and papers is requested according to the dates indicated in the invitation to the seminar. Each participant will receive a copy of the proceedings.

Audio-visual equipment

Slide, overhead, video and data projectors will be available.

Data Projector

If you plan to have the oral presentation using the data projector, please note the following:

A PC with Windows 2000 and MS Office 2000 is available to host your MS PowerPoint presentation. Please, submit your presentation before working sessions during the coffee breaks to technical personnel available at the lecture room. You may also send your MS PowerPoint presentation before October 10, 2003 to organizing Committee.

You could have also your own PC machine (standard VGA connector). Macintosh will not be accepted.

Pre-test your PC before your presentation session at the session room to assure that it works. You should set-up video definition of your PC to match data projector. In case that your PC does not work at the pre-test, you are requested to use an overhead projector. Please be sure to prepare viewgraphs for the overhead projector in case of the accident. 2-pin connecting plug (electricity is supplied at 220 V, 50 Hz) can be connected for your PC. This connecting plug is different from that one in some other countries, e.g. USA, UK, Japan, etc.

Thank you for taking the time to share your knowledge and information with us. We look forward to your presentations and to an excellent meeting.
