



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON BIODIVERSITY AND THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**KIGALI, RWANDA
23-24 JULY 2007**

The Government of Rwanda looks forward to welcoming participants to the first international research conference on biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in Rwanda. Bringing together both leading national and international conservation and natural resource management professionals, the conference will provide a forum for the exchange of research findings and ideas focusing on the importance of knowledge-based approaches for the long-term conservation of biodiversity.

Rwanda hosts a wealth of biodiversity and natural resources. Many endangered fauna and flora are part of transboundary ecosystems; threatened wetland networks and highland forests are important catchments for the Nile and Congo rivers. This gives a truly international dimension to conservation and natural resource management in the country.

The conference will cover ecosystem health – particularly the correlation between ecosystem, human, domestic animal and wildlife health – as well as economics, tourism, conservation and communities. The conference is being organized under the themes: conservation biology, which will focus on the biology, behaviour and ecological processes of threatened species and their habitats; and sustainable management of natural resources, which will discuss the results of biological, economic and social research in sustainable management of natural resources.

The success of the conference will be a cornerstone in the use of research information to inform and develop sound policies and practices towards biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in Rwanda.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Janet Kayitesi, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research in President's Office, Kigali, Rwanda. Fax: (+250) 59062081; e-mail: janet_mineduc@yahoo.com; www.rwandagateway.org/conference/



THE FIRST REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON TRADITIONAL ARABIC AND ISLAMIC MEDICINE

**AMMAN, JORDAN
8-10 AUGUST 2007**

The Traditional Arabic and Islamic Medicine Conference (TAIM) aims to revive the important aspect of our identity and to establish it as a notable area of research on the same level as other practices of traditional medicine.

The conference will include the traditional uses of these herbs, agricultural research, pharmaceutical and biological remedies based on this culture as well as medicinal products and marketing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Ms Razan A. Zuayter, APN, PO Box 811815, Amman 11181, Jordan. Fax: +962 6 5699777; e-mail: agpnature@go.com.jo or medplantamman@gmail.com; www.arabic-islamic-medicine.com



2007 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOREST AND WOODLAND HISTORY

**THESSALONIKI, GREECE
3-7 SEPTEMBER 2007**

This conference is open to all researchers interested in trees, woodlands, forests and their cultural, social and economic values.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE CONFERENCE WEB SITE:
www.uec.ac.uk/geography/woodlandculturesconference.php or contact: Dr Eirini Saratsi, e-mail: e.saratsi@exeter.ac.uk; Prof. Charles Watkins, e-mail: charles.watkins@nottingham.ac.uk; or Assoc. Prof. Achilles Gerasimidis, e-mail: achger@for.ath.grwww.kent.ac.uk/anthropology/



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POVERTY REDUCTION AND FORESTS: TENURE, MARKET AND POLICY REFORMS

**BANGKOK, THAILAND
3-7 SEPTEMBER, 2007**

This conference is being organized by the Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), in collaboration with other Rights and Resources Initiative partners, and many other organizations and donors that are concerned about poverty and forest issues.

It is well established that areas with high rates of poverty and forest areas often coincide and there is much interest in exploring ways of using forest resources in ways that benefit the poor, while sustaining the resource base. There is increasing evidence though that the potential of forests to contribute to poverty reduction is only being partially realized. There is also growing recognition that this will continue to be the case unless critical issues are addressed such as the need for greater tenure security, market reform and other supportive changes in policy to improve access to resources and markets by the poor.

This conference aims to support discussion and exchange on the critical factors surrounding forests and poverty and current efforts to reduce poverty through forest management and use. It will strengthen existing, and help build new, strategic networks of key stakeholders to advance tenure, market and policy reforms in support of poverty reduction.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
RECOFTC, PO Box 1111, Kasetsart University, Bangkok 10903, Thailand. Fax: (66-2) 561-4880, 562-0960; e-mail: conference@recoftc.org; http://conference.recoftc.org



"Riches of the forest: for health, life and spirit in Africa"



"Riches of the forest: food, spices, crafts and resins of Asia"

**INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE TO
PROMOTE THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
NON-TIMBER FOREST
PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

BEIJING, CHINA
19-21 SEPTEMBER 2007

The conference is being sponsored by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), with the support of the Ministry of Commerce and the State Forestry Administration of China. It is being organized by ITTO and the Chinese Academy of Forestry in technical collaboration with the International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan (ICBR), the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), FAO and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

For decades, NTFPs and services have generated high expectations because of their potential to combine forest management and conservation with income generation. Efforts to increase the role of NTFPs by improving the management, conservation and marketing of NTFPs and forest services are under way in many parts of the world. However, progress has often been less than hoped for and expected.

There is an urgent need to consolidate lessons learned among ITTO members including on how best to encourage more private investment in the sector.

The conference will:

- bring producers, traders and consumers together to share experiences in promoting NTFPs in domestic and international trade;

- study opportunities to promote the development of NTFPs and forest services that can improve the economic attractiveness of maintaining the forest resource base; and
- make recommendations on policy and other measures to promote the sustainable production of NTFPs and the sustainable provision of forest services.

The ITTO conference will address these issues through keynote presentations and panel discussions.

Participants will include decision-makers and experts from governments, companies and cooperatives, industry associations, local communities and international and non-governmental organizations. The conference will be open to all interested participants.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**ITTO Secretariat, Forest Industry Division,
International Tropical Timber Organization,
International Organizations Center, 5th Floor,
Pacifico-Yokohama 1-1-1, Minato-Mirai,
Nishi-ku, Yokohama, 220-0012 Japan.
Fax: +81 45 223 1111; e-mail: fi@itto.or.jp;
www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?id=320
&pageId=223**



**4TH INTERNATIONAL
MEDICINAL MUSHROOM
CONFERENCE**

LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA
23-27 SEPTEMBER 2007

The International Medicinal Mushroom Conference (IMMC4) will provide a creative and informative event for mycologists and all those who are interested in studying and discussing the most current research on the biological properties of mushrooms in the following fields.

- Systematics, taxonomy, distribution, ecology and fungal culture collections
- Medicinal value and pharmacology of mushroom active compounds

- Mushroom nutraceuticals
- Fungal physiology, biochemistry and genetics
- Mycotechnology and mushroom cultivation
- Mycoremediation
- Medicinal mushroom species
- Ethnomycology, folk medicine and homeopathy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
**IMMC4, Department for Wood Science and
Technology, Biotechnical Faculty, University of
Ljubljana, Jamnikarjeva 101, SI-1000 Ljubljana,
Slovenia. Fax: +38614235035; e-mail:
immc4@bf.uni-lj.si; http://www.immc4.si/**

**INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS: A GLOBAL
VISION OF FORESTRY
IN THE TWENTY-FIRST
CENTURY**

TORONTO, CANADA
30 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER 2007

The congress discussions will be organized under the following three themes: i) Global challenges, responsibilities and leadership in forestry; ii) Frontiers of science and a healthy and diverse forest environment (the forest environment, its diversity and productivity, and scientific challenges, and human health and the forest); and iii) Cultures, markets and sustainable societies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
**Prof. Shashi Kant, Chair, Organizing Committee,
Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto,
Canada. E-mail: shashi.kant@utoronto.ca;
/www.forestry.utoronto.ca/centennial/int_cong
ress.htm**

**THE FUTURE OF FORESTS
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:
OUTLOOK FOR 2020**

CHIANG MAI, THAILAND
16-18 OCTOBER 2007

Recent and unprecedented economic and social change in the Asia-Pacific region has significantly altered the way forests are regarded and used. It is in acknowledgement of a new kind of society-forest dynamic in the region that the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, in partnership with member countries and other international organizations, is

conducting the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS II). This major international conference is being organized to strengthen the consultative and capacity-building processes of APFSOS II by bringing together diverse stakeholders and expertise to provide broader perspectives on emerging changes, probable scenarios and their implications for forests and forestry in the region.

The conference will provide opportunities to present selected voluntary papers. The main discussion areas and subjects on which to present voluntary papers will include:

- the current situation of forests and forestry in the Asia-Pacific region;
- societal transition in the region and probable scenarios for forests and forestry;
- impacts of globalization on forests and forestry in the region;
- challenges in balancing environmental, economic and social needs;
- policy, institutional and technological adaptation for the twenty-first century.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Patrick Durst, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Officer for Asia and the Pacific, 39 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200, Thailand.

Fax: + 66 2 697 4445; e-mail:

patrick.durst@fao.org

(Please see page 61 of Non-Wood News 14 for more information on APFSOS II.)

3RD GLOBAL SUMMIT ON MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS

**CHIANG MAI, THAILAND
21-24 NOVEMBER 2007**

Medicinal plants in many forms have been used since ancient times in traditional medicine and for health care. Aromatic plants and their products, particularly essential oils, are also becoming more important. Traditional medicine is, at the present time, accepted as an alternative for or used in conjunction with Western medical practice in many countries.

The theme of the Summit will be "Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Health Care" with the emphasis on the following subtopics.

- Cultivation and quality standardization
- Sustainable role of medicinal and

- aromatic plants in health care
- Safety and efficacy of phytomedicines and phytocosmetics
- Isolation and characterization of bioactive substances from medicinal and aromatic plants
- Nanotechnology in pharmaceutical, phytocosmetics and natural products

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Dr Thaneeya Chetianukornkul, Secretariat, International Centre, UNISERV, Chiang Mai University, 239 Huay Keaw Road, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand. Fax: + (66-53) 94-2890; e-mail: gosmap3@gmail.com; www.gosmap3-cmu.co.nr



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON UNDERUTILIZED PLANTS FOR FOOD, NUTRITION, INCOME AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**ARUSHA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
3-7 MARCH 2008**

This five-day Symposium is being organized under the auspices of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), recognizing the need to provide a global forum for exchange and debate on issues related to the promotion of underutilized plants. The symposium is an activity of the newly formed ISHS working group on underutilized plant genetic resources (PG3) and will be a joint event of the ISHS Commission Plant Genetic Resources and Section Tropical and Subtropical Fruits.

The symposium will be organized around four main areas of importance for underutilized plants: food security, nutrition and health, income generation

and environmental sustainability. Participants will be invited to share and discuss reasons for success and failure of diverse approaches to promote underutilized plants.

The abstract submission deadline is 15 August 2007.

The symposium has been co-convened by the International Centre for Underutilised Crops (ICUC); the Global Facilitation Unit for Underutilized Species (GFU); the World Vegetable Center (AVRDC); the Global Horticulture Initiative (GlobalHort); Bioversity International; Plant Resources of Tropical Africa (PROTA); and the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Dr Hannah Jaenicke, Director, International Centre for Underutilised Crops, 127 Sunil Mawatha, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Fax: +94-11-2786854;

e-mail: h.jaenicke@cgiar.org;

www.icuc-iwmi.org/Symposium2008/



The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.

Ralph Waldo Emerson