



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

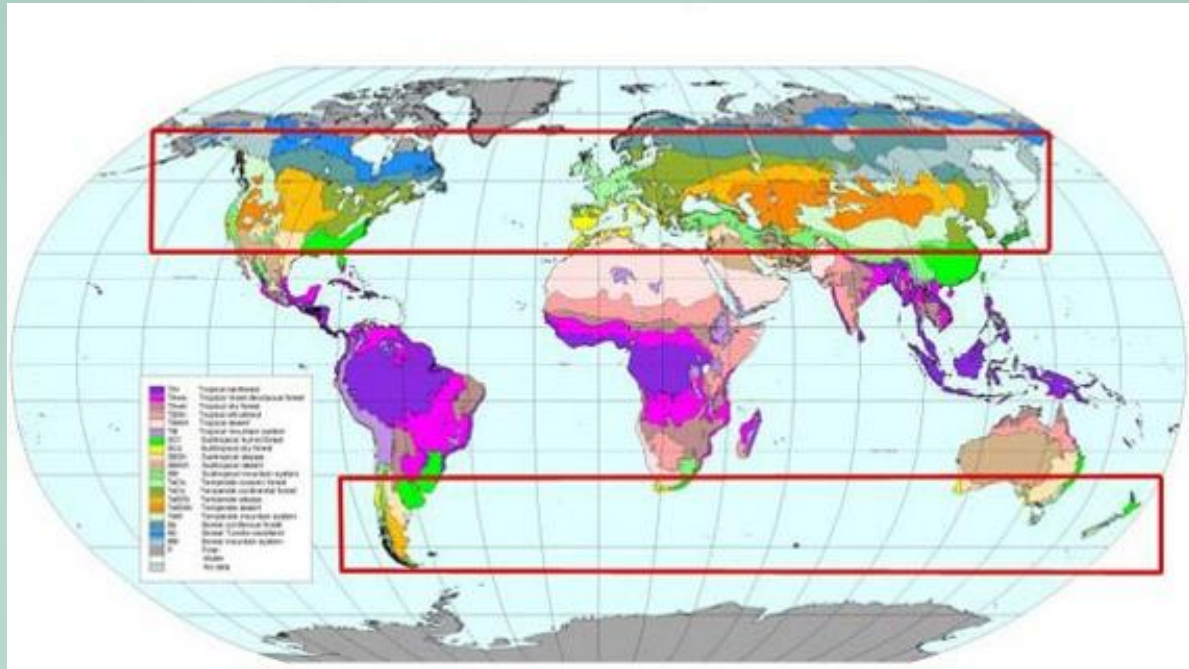
# International Poplar Commission

Agenda line item 6.3

**COFO 24**  
World Forest Week



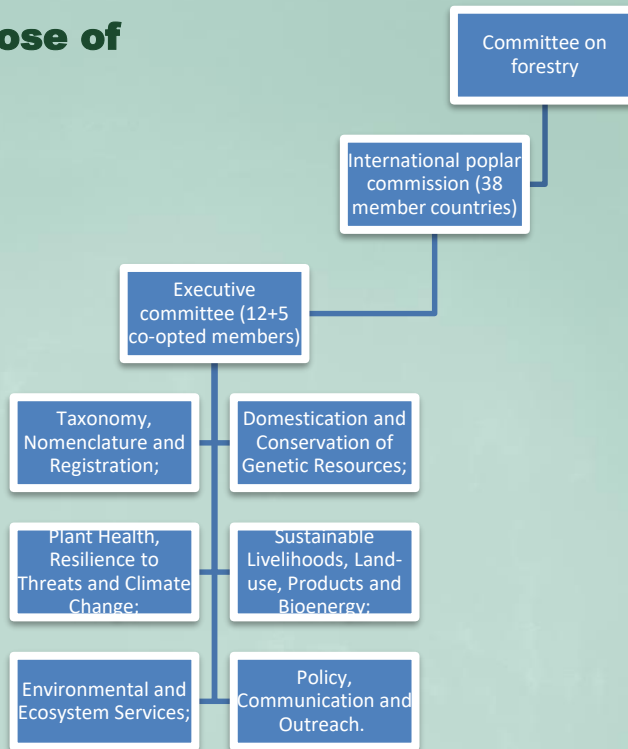
Poplars & willows: cover close to 100 million hectares  
in their native range



# The organization and purpose of the International Poplar Commission

**Goal:** to enhance well-being and rural livelihoods in developing countries through the transfer of knowledge and technology on the cultivation, conservation and utilization of poplars and willows

**Founded in 1947**



# Key outputs & achievements of IPC



- Global information network:
- Supporting research and management activities
- Supporting the development of national forest, timber and agricultural sectors
- Publications (e.g. Poplars and Willows – Trees for Society and the Environment)
- Congresses/study tours/working party meetings
- International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for *Populus* and *Salix*

# Key progress from Working Parties in 2016-2018

- First draft of Checklist for Cultivars of Salix to be later submitted to the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA)
- Heavy commitment in forest genetics:
  - New clones of poplars have been released (Serbia)
  - New Salix varieties were registered and released (Sweden)
  - Molecular characterization of native species of willows (*Salix humboldtiana* Willd)
  - Other poplar and willow clones are in their testing phase
- Working parties are committed in a number of different research projects
- Preparation of information sheets on “green technologies” to be shared through IPC website to stakeholders



# Key progress from Working Parties in 2016-2018

- Strengthening the IPC Newsletter to disseminate reports in support of WP 5, “Environmental and Ecosystem Services” and 6 “Policy, Communication and Outreach”
- Identification and technical support to the poplar/willow industries in the different IPC active countries



# Main challenges of IPC



- Difficult to attract interest of other stakeholders and partners
- Country membership stagnant
- Links with FAO mandate is not always apparent
- Technical fields represented by working parties need to be more integrated into environmental and development issues
- Narrow technical focus (poplars and willows)

# Progress to date in reform to meet those challenges

- Reform proposal was presented to the 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry & Executive Committee 2012
- Deliberations in 2014, 22nd Session of Committee on Forestry and at the 47th Executive Committee Meeting of the International Poplar Commission
- Revised proposal submitted to the 25th Session of IPC, in Berlin, September 2016 and unanimously accepted by all IPC participant countries voting (23 of 38)
- IPC Working Parties have been revisited by the Commission member countries to enhance the impact of IPC in meeting new challenges





# The Direction of IPC Reform



- Expansion of the thematic scope to include in the portfolio other fast-growing species
- New title of the Commission: ***International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC)***

## Next steps

- To be completed with Martin Weih (IPC chair)





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16-20 July, 2018  
Rome, Italy