**3rd International Congress on Planted Forests**

**16-21 May 2013**

**Objectives**

The Third International Congress on Planted Forests aims to investigate the contribution of planted forests to sustainable development in the context of global changes. Topics will include the sustainability of planted forests in the context of changing climates and the future role of planted forests in environmental protection and REDD+. Issues surrounding planted forests today will be addressed, alongside their productive, environmental and social functions and the challenges they present. The target audience includes forest scientists, policy makers, the private forestry sector and forest managers.

**Overall structure**

Five of the major European Atlantic countries (France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, and United Kingdom) with large areas of planted forests will join forces under the coordination of the European Forestry Institute’s Atlantic European Regional Office (EFIATLANTIC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Unión de Silvicultores del Sur de Europa (USSE) to organize this congress with potential support from EU and other countries with large estates of planted forests from around the globe.

The congress will comprise two successive and complementary events spread over a week. The first will consist of five scientific satellite workshops each held in a European Atlantic city (Bordeaux, Dublin, Porto, Bilbao and Edinburgh) between 16th and 18th May; each will be followed by a field excursion on May 19 th. The second event will be a plenary meeting held in Estoril near Lisbon in Portugal on 20th and 21st May.

Participants may register for both the workshop of their choice and for the plenary meeting. Alternatively, it is possible to attend either one of the workshops or the plenary meeting.

**Programme**

Each workshop will address a theme of international importance. The workshops will include state of the art scientific information and country issues. Needs and experiences in policy and management practices will be discussed and synthesized for further presentation at the plenary conference. The field excursions will focus on issues discussed in the workshops, illustrating them in a national/regional context.

**The themes of each satellite workshop are as follows.**

Bordeaux, France. Vulnerability and Risk Management in Planted Forests.

Dublin, Ireland. Providing and Valuing Ecosystem Services in Planted Forests.

Porto, Portugal. Economics and Trade, Markets, Profitability.

Bilbao, Spain. Governance, Land Use Conflicts and Resource Management.

Edinburgh, Scotland. Planted Forests for the Restoration of Forest Landscapes and Mitigation of Climate Change (incl. REDD+).

**The programme of the plenary conference will include.**

* 6 keynotes from the major regions of planted forest resources
* 5 summary statements (one from each satellite workshop)
* thematic sessions and policy round table
* drafting of an official declaration endorsed by the Congress participants
* side events on specific topics upon request

**Participation**

Around 80 participants per workshop are expected, representing the scientific community, as well as forestry institutions, policy makers, forest managers, and forest-based industries. 300 to 400 participants are expected for the plenary conference.

***For more information***

<http://www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/2013_icpf/>

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