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Giving Rural Europe a New Future



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REGIONE LIGURIA



LAND
BRANDENBURG



Región de Murcia



Comisiwn Coedwigoeth Cymru
Forestry Commission Wales



Autonomous Regions
of Košice and Prešov

FOCUS ON - MANIFESTO ON FOREST POLICIES: SIGNED IN LLANDUDNO (WALES) BY PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS FROM THE EUROPEAN REGIONS INVOLVED IN THE ROBINWOOD PROJECT

During the third international conference of the Robinwood project on sustainable forest management, public administrators from the European regions involved in the Robinwood project signed a political-strategic manifesto that commits them to promoting the spirit and contents of pan-European indicators for sustainable forest management (Lisbon, 1998) and the contents of the European action plan for forests.



Promotion activities will be made through the following actions:

- Improving long-term competitiveness in the forestry industry and sustainable use of forest products and services;
- Conserving and improving biodiversity, limiting atmospheric carbon, integrity, health and resilience of forest ecosystems
- Contributing to the quality of life by preserving and improving social and cultural aspects in forests;
- Improving consistency on several organizational and institutional levels and cooperation between different industries to integrate financial, environmental and social-cultural objectives;

In order to carry out the activities undertaken, the partners of the project are committed to defining a local action plan, assessing results every 5 years and to promoting, with local bodies, a campaign to adhere to the principles of the manifesto through local action plans.

The complete document can be downloaded from the Robinwood web-site at the following address:

[www.robin-wood.it/testi/Scaricabili/Manifesto%20\(ita\).pdf](http://www.robin-wood.it/testi/Scaricabili/Manifesto%20(ita).pdf)

[www.robin-wood.it/testi/Scaricabili/Manifesto%20\(eng\).pdf](http://www.robin-wood.it/testi/Scaricabili/Manifesto%20(eng).pdf)



LLANDUDNO (WALES) – INTERNATIONAL FOREST CONFERENCE FOR THE EUROPEAN PROJECT ROBINWOOD (14-16 FEBRUARY 2007)

From 14 to 16 February in Llandudno (northern Wales), the third international conference of the Robinwood project on sustainable forest management was held. The conference, organized by the Welsh forestry commission, was attended by project managers, sub-project representatives and representatives from foreign institutions.

Fifteen roundtables were held during the conference involving participants dedicated to providing examples of good practice implemented by partner regions of the project on sustainable forest management.

There were two particularly important moments during the three days of meetings: Mr. Seoane's speech, DG Agri director at the European Commission and extender of the European action plan for forests, who illustrated the main actions undertaken by the European Commission in this sector, and the signing of the manifesto on forest policies by the institutional representatives of each partner region. The document, which includes the principles and objectives of the European action plan for forests, commits partner regions to undertake local actions to protect forest environments and the quality of life, to support sustainable development of local economies and to protect forest ecosystems.

On 15 February, technical visits were made where representatives saw first-hand the activities undertaken in various sectors related to forest management (forest water management, cutting, examples of associated management of forests, "green" tourism and small plants for generating energy from biomass).

Thus, the conference at Llandudno was very important to sum up the activities and innovative experiences being developed in Europe for sustainable forest management.

www.robin-wood.it



LIGURIA: THE CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY TO SUPPORT THE "MANIFESTO OF LOCAL ACTIONS FOR FORESTS"

Regione Liguria is promoting a campaign to support the contents and principles of the Manifesto for forests that they signed during the international conference held in Wales. With this initiative, which is intended to apply manifesto contents and objectives on a regional level, Regione Liguria undertakes to involve its local bodies, starting with the ones involved in sub-projects, in a process aimed at promoting the initiative and practices for



sustainable forest management.
The objectives focus on:

- Improving long-term competitiveness in the forestry industry and sustainable use of forest products and services;
- Conserving and improving biodiversity, limiting atmospheric carbon, integrity, health and resilience of forest ecosystems;
- Contributing to the quality of life by preserving and improving social and cultural aspects in forests;
- Improving consistency on several organizational and institutional levels and cooperation between different industries to integrate financial, environmental and social-cultural objectives.

On Friday 25 May, the initiative materialized with the signing of the manifesto for local actions for forests by local bodies involved in Robinwood sub-projects, during Energethica 2007, the important event on renewable energies held at Fiera di Genova from 24 to 26 May 2007. Signing the manifesto commits signatories to foster local policies that are consistent with the contents of the document and to review objectives every 5 years.



FAO – STATE OF THE WORLD’S FOREST 2007

The bi-yearly report by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) on the state of forests provides a global perspective of the forest industry, which includes environmental, financial and social aspects. The overall conclusion of the report is that there has been progress but the situation is very different depending on the area taken into consideration.

Some regions in the world, such as developed countries and those with temperate climates, have made considerable progress in managing their forests well, institutions have been strengthened and forest areas are stable or growing. However, other regions, above all in emerging countries and those with tropical climates, continue to lose forest areas. By adopting this global point of view it is possible to provide some data: the world has fewer than 4 billion hectares of forests, which covers 30% of the earth. From 1990 to 2005, 3% of these forestlands were lost, a drop of 0.2% per year.

The report yet again highlights how many countries have demonstrated that politics can contribute to the development of correct forest management, through adequate forest policies, legislation and strengthening institutions that operate in the sector. Additionally, many countries already manage their woodland resources by focusing on land conservation, protection of water resources and biodiversity. However, the continuing decline of primary forestlands in several tropical countries remains a serious cause for concern.

The challenge for the future, concludes the FAO forest department, is to guarantee sustainable management of world forestlands and at the same time realize fair economic development.

[Http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0773e/a0773e00.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0773e/a0773e00.htm)



18TH SESSION OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO) COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO)



The 18th session of the FAO committee on forestry (COFO18) was held in Rome from 12 to 16 March.

Over 600 representatives participated from governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations and FAO observers, etc.

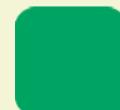
One of the most important issues under discussion was the 2007 report on the state of forests drafted by the FAO forest department, an outline of which was presented. Among the other issues discussed at the COFO session was:

- forests and energy: the new challenge for sustainable forest management; the discussion concerned the strategic role COFO placed on bio-energy, with indications on the work yet to be carried out in the sector
- forest protection, above all from forest fires
- local forest management, through a proactive approach supported by national policy and local forest programs
- development of sustainable forest management to overcome the gap between policies and actual practice on all levels
- FAO recommendations and decisions in the interests of the committee through forest commissions
- creation of a FAO forest action program for the 19th session of COFO (March 2009)

www.fao.org/forestry/site/cofo/en/



PROJECTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FINANCED BY ROBINWOOD



In this issue of the newsletter the process continues through 15 international partnership sub-projects started up by the European project Robinwood to find out which actions local groups are carrying out and what their objectives are.

- **SFMID. SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT**



Supported by a partnership involving the Natural Park of Aveto (Liguria, Italy), as project leader, the city of Mula (Murcia, Spain), and the Welsh Forestry Commission, SFMID focuses on sustainable forest management, hydro-geological protection and the use of forest biomass for energy generation.

The main activities the partners are conducting concern the creation of a sustainable forest management plan (database, digital mapping and intervention guidelines) for all territories involved, conducting research on

the characteristics of local timber and drafting guidelines for building forest roads, biomass market research and designing a small plant for pellet production.

Below are the objectives the project should achieve by September 2007:

- defining a cutting system and extraction method with low impact on the land
- activation of chain processes to exploit low-quality wood and overall potential of woody production
- exploiting energy-generating forest products through studies to build small biomass plants

● **INFORME. INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT AND EDUCATION**

The INFORME project, which involves the University of Humboldt (Brandenburg, Germany), as project leader, and the Mountain Community of Ingauna (Liguria, Italy), involves activities, starting from a study of the current situation, to disseminate further environmental awareness on the use of forests with guidelines on sustainable forest management, meetings and workshops, information initiatives involving schools and environmental education centers, by producing brochures and educational courses. One of the activities underway is the creation of a "nature path" model and its implementation and experimentation in partner regions.

The objectives of the project focus on:

- improving territory management by appreciating the environment through training and education processes
- develop integrated forest management tools
- promoting social-economic development in rural areas

● **BUCSE. USE OF BIOMASS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN EUROPE**

BUCSE, consisting of a partnership with between agencies to support regional development including Kosice (East Slovakia), project leader, the Mountain Community of Alta Valle Arroscia (Liguria, Italy) and the association of forest owners based in the region of Murcia (Spain), is carrying out activities closely linked to increasing the use of biomass to generate energy in the regions involved. In particular, included in the activities undertaken by the partners, there is the definition of a strategy to use biomass in the region of Kosice, a feasibility study on procurement for the biomass plant in Pieve di Teco, a study on biomass in the Spanish region of Murcia, and writing a manual on potential producers and users of biomass in the territory under consideration.

The objectives of this project focus on:

- creating tools and mechanisms for sustainable energy use of local forest resources
- determining the best measures to use biomass for generating energy
- activating information and awareness initiatives on forest energy resources



EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

ENERGETHICA 2007

From 24 to 26 May 2007, the second edition of Energethica, the Congress for renewable and sustainable Energy, was held in Genoa at the Genoa fairgrounds.

This event was an occasion to meet for exhibitors and manufacturers of components and plants for generating energy from renewable sources, suppliers of renewable fuels, producers of renewable energy, plant installation experts, designers, public bodies, universities and industry associations – and visitors – producers of energy intending to update their knowledge on technologies and laws, entrepreneurs who intend to build plants for own-consumption, installation experts seeking further training and private parties seeking information on alternative heating systems.

From the 24th to the 25th Regione Liguria organized a congress named "ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT: the experience of Liguria in Italy". At the same time other workshops were held on issues related to renewable energy and energy efficiency focusing on specific issues such as the use of biomass, bio-construction and sustainable public mobility.

On Friday May 25, during the congress discussions were held on topics related to the Robinwood project on "sustainable use of woodland resources to generate energy and rural development". Local sub-project representatives took part to illustrate their experiences and to compare cases of excellence in Italy. After the workshop there was a ceremony to sign the manifesto of local action for forests.

On Saturday May 26, the congress ended with further discussions held on the issues dealt with.

For further information visit the web site:

www.energethica.it



EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: NATURAL HAZARDS AND NATURAL DISTURBANCES IN MOUNTAIN FORESTS – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYLVICULTURE IN TRENTO 18-21 SEPTEMBER 2007

From 18 to 21 September at the Panorama Conference Center in Trento, the international conference will be held: 'Natural Hazards and Natural Disturbances in Mountain Forests'.

www.sisef.it/sisef/iufro.php



EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOREST RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (IUFRO) EUROPEAN CONGRESS 2007 FOREST MANAGEMENT AND SYLVICULTURE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT – SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2007 - WARSAW (UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE CAMPUS)



From 6 to 8 September at the University of Agriculture in Warsaw (Poland), the European congress organized by International Union of Forest Research Organization (IUFRO), will be held: "Forest management and silviculture in rural development".

<http://conference2007.wl.sggw.pl/>



EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

BIOENERGY 2007 - 3RD INTERNATIONAL BIOENERGY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION SEPTEMBER 3-6, 2007 - JYVÄSKYLÄ FAIR AND CONGRESS CENTRE (FINLAND)

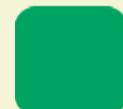


The third International Conference will be held from 3 to 6 September at the Congress Center of Jyväskylä, in Finland.

<http://seminarit.ohoi.fi/default.asp?seminarID=6>



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