

REPORT

Beijing,
China,
26-30 October
2008

**23rd Session of the
International Poplar
Commission
and 44th Session
of its Executive
Committee**

INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION

Report of the 23rd Session of the Commission
and of the 44th Session of its Executive Committee

Beijing, China, 26 – 30 October 2008

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, February 2009

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PART I. REPORT OF THE 44TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION

ORGANIZATION

1. The 44th Session of the Executive of the Executive Committee of the International Poplar Commission (IPC) was jointly hosted by the Government of China, the Beijing Forestry University, the Chinese Forestry Society and the Chinese Academy of Forestry, and was held in Beijing, China, on 26 October 2008. Dr. Stefano Bisoffi, Chairperson of the Executive Committee, chaired the meeting. It consisted of a closed session of nine members, the Secretary of the Commission and 12 Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons or Technical Secretaries of the six Working Parties and of the Sub-Committee on Nomenclature and Registration.

THE SESSION

2. The Session was opened by the Dr. Stefano Bisoffi, Chairperson of the Executive Committee. The Provisional Agenda was adopted (see *Annex I(a)*).

3. Formal apologies were acknowledged from Marijke Steenackers (Chairperson, Working Party on Poplar and Willow Diseases), John Charles (Vice-Chairperson, Working Party on Poplar and Willow Insect and Other Animal Pests), Teresa Cerrillo (Chairperson, Working Party on Poplar and Willow Genetics, Conservation and Improvement), Kurth Perttu (Chairperson, Working Party on Environmental Applications of Poplars and Willows).

4. Dr. Stefano Bisoffi stressed that the work of the Commission was not so much on the scientific research but to facilitate more effective ways to transfer Poplar and Willow scientific knowledge and technology to strengthen institutional capacity in policy, planning and management practices, particularly twinning between industrialized and developing countries.

5. Dr. Stefano Bisoffi, Chairperson, Sub-committee on Nomenclature and Registration (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/3765/en/>), advised that National Poplar Commissions were not respecting or registering cultivars in accordance with established procedures. He proposed revitalization of the Sub-Committee and of the website to encourage greater use. He recommended that Willow registration be initiated because of the new opportunities and increased interest in Willow species.

6. Dr. Sylvie Augustin, Chairperson, Working Party on Poplar and Willow Insect and Other Animal Pests (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/3769/en/>), reported that the e-book on “Damaging Poplar Insects: Internationally Important Species” was completed and available on the IPC website (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/38255/en/>). She advised that the draft Chapter on Insects and other Animal Pests for the book “Poplars and Willows in the World” had been completed and was now available for peer review. She stressed that the focus of the Working Party needed to increasingly be towards achieving greater outreach and greater participation by more entomologists from around the world.

7. Dr. Mauritz Ramstedt, Vice-Chairperson of the Working Party on Poplar and Willow Diseases (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/3768/en/>), advised that the Working Party was contributing to the Chapter on Poplar and Willow Diseases in the book “Poplars and Willows in the World”. He advised that a focus would be to encourage more pathologists from around the globe to become involved with the Working Party, particularly from China.

8. Dr. Sasa Orlovič, Vice-Chairperson, Working Party on Poplar and Willow Genetics, Conservation and Improvement (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/3770/en/>), reported completion of an inventory of 23 Poplar and Willow breeding institutions to ascertain breeding programmes and pollen collections in which a comparison of breeding programmes and opportunities for improved collaboration were evaluated. These would be shared on the web. It was highlighted that bridging the gap between the traditional tree breeders and those adopting advanced molecular biotechnology techniques, had become a high priority. The major advances of China in these fields were acknowledged. The Working Party prepared the final draft of the Genetic Resources Chapter for the book “Poplars and Willows in the World”.

9. Dr. Theo Verwijst, Chairperson, Working Party on Poplar and Willow Production Systems (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/3771/en/>), reported participation with other Working Parties in joint activities in Sweden and Estonia (May 2005), Northern Ireland (May 2006) and Canada (June 2007). It was stressed that the Working Party had been involved in activities associated with the IUFRO-coordinated International Poplar Symposium in Nanjing, China, 2006 and proposed to be involved with the planned IUFRO International Poplar Symposium (IPS) meeting in Orvieto, Italy, 2010. It was reported that the Working Party was coordinating the Chapter on Industrial Applications of Poplars and Willows for the book “Poplars and Willows in the World”. It was highlighted that Poplar and Willow coppice management had demonstrated potential for becoming a viable bioenergy feedstock alternative. It was reported that the Working Party maintained close links with IEA-Bioenergy initiatives.

10. Dr. Jud Isebrands, Vice-Chairperson and Dr. Drusilla Riddell-Black, Technical Secretary, Working Party on the Environmental Applications of Poplars and Willows (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/26214/en/>), reported the successful hosting of cross-cutting inter-Working Party events in Sweden and Estonia (May 2005), Northern Ireland (May 2006) and Canada (June 2007). It was indicated that the proposal submitted by the Working Party to the European Union (EU) had not been successful, but valuable experience had been gained for future submissions. The web portal on the IPC website was reported as being the principal mode of communication for publications, projects, activities, lists of institutions, experts, references, links and contacts. It was stressed that the focus of the Working Party had been to transfer technical knowledge to field applications. It was also reported that the Working Party had prepared the draft Chapter on the Environmental Benefits of Poplars and Willows in the book “Poplars and Willows in the World”.

11. Dr. Joris Van Acker, Chairperson, Working Party on Harvesting and Utilization of Poplar and Willow Wood (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/3767/en/>), reported revitalization of activities. It was indicated that the pre-Session Conference in Nanjing (21-24 October) on “Engineered Wood Products Based on Poplar/ Willow Wood”, co-hosted with the Nanjing Forestry University, had attracted strong support from the private sector, both internationally and from China. A book containing all papers presented to the Conference had been published in hard copy. It was advised that the Working Party was preparing the Chapter on Harvesting and Utilization of the book “Poplars and Willows in the World”. It was also highlighted that the Field Handbook on Poplar Harvesting had been completed (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/011/k3305e/k3305e00.htm>).

12. The Secretariat reaffirmed the potential of the IPC website in providing portals for Working Parties and National Poplar Commissions.

13. Dr. Jim Richardson and Dr. Jud Isebrands advised on the status in preparation of the book “Poplars and Willows in the World: Meeting the Needs of Society and the Environment” (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/32608/en/>). Two chapters had been peer reviewed and were uploaded to the IPC website as working papers, with the aim to have remaining chapters uploaded to the web as working papers by March 2009. Options for publishing the book through a publishing house were being investigated by FAO.

14. The Secretariat informed the Committee of the heads of delegations and names of the candidates proposed by member countries from which its members would be elected for the period 2008-2012.
15. Dr. Bisoffi provided guidelines for Working Party Concurrent Sessions and Working Party Business Sessions to stimulate discussions towards the theme of the 23rd Session and mandate of the IPC. The Working Parties were given guidelines for reporting outputs and recommendations to the plenary session and for preparation of the programmes of work for the next four years. He highlighted the need for Working Parties to collaborate in addressing topical themes such as climate change, bioenergy and sustainable land-use and livelihoods. He stressed more effective use of the Working Party web portals on the IPC website
16. The Secretariat informed the Committee that India had reconfirmed its offer to host the 46th Session of the Executive Committee.
17. The Secretariat informed the Committee of the FAO-Italy supported project “Poplars and Willows for Sustainable Livelihoods and Land-use in the East Mediterranean and Central Asian Countries” and encouraged participation in the proposed International Workshop in mid-2009. He introduced Dr. Alberto Del Lungo, Technical Advisor to the project.
18. The Secretariat advised the Committee of the programme, documentation, election of officers, technical and logistical arrangements for the 23rd Session of the IPC as well as associated study tour and social events (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/ipc2008/en/> and <http://www.ipc2008bj.com.cn/>). Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs were identified for all sessions. Meetings were confirmed for Chairpersons of National Poplar Commissions and Heads of Delegation for a briefing on the Executive Committee elections, and of Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of Sessions to clarify arrangements.
19. Dr Bisoffi requested full support to revitalize National Poplar Commissions. In this regard, it was highlighted that formal invitations to IPC Sessions from FAO were directed to senior Government representatives who may or may not be conversant with the National Poplar Commission. It was requested, in future, that the Secretariat alert the Chairperson of the National Poplar Commission when invitations were issued, so that appropriate follow up could be initiated.
20. The Secretariat reported that Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation were still in the process of obtaining Government support for membership to the IPC. Estonia and the Czech Republic had expressed interest to become members and requested details to initiate the process.
21. Dr. Patrick Mertens advised of the Pro-*populus* initiative in Europe to share knowledge and technology to more efficiently and effectively grow, process, market and trade in poplar species. It was highlighted that the initiative should build upon, rather than compete with, the activities of the IPC.
22. The Secretariat advised that IUFRO planned to hold its International Poplar Symposium in Orvieto, Italy, in September 2010. It was agreed that the 45th Executive Committee would be programmed to coincide with these dates, in either Rome or Orvieto.
23. Dr. Bisoffi and Executive Committee Members acknowledged the work of the Secretariat (Jim Carle, Secretary; Alberto Del Lungo, Technical Advisor; and Graciela Andrade and Michèle Millanès, Administrative Support). He encouraged National Poplar Commissions and Working Parties to more effectively use the IPC website maintained by the Secretariat.

POST-SESSION INFORMAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

24. The newly-elected members of the Executive Committee for 2008-2012 met informally on 30 October 2008 to elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Committee and to discuss general business. Dr. Stefano Bisoffi (Italy) was re-elected Chairperson and Dr. Jud Isebrands (USA) was re-elected Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, both unanimously. Dr. Bisoffi welcomed Dr. John Doornbos (Canada), Dr. Jagdish Kishwan (India) and Dr. Meng Zhu Lu (China) as newly-elected members to the Executive Committee. Dr Jim Richardson (Canada), Prof. Dr. Yin Weilun (China) and Dr Martin Weih (Sweden) were co-opted to the Executive Committee. In recognition of the need to better integrate the outputs and activities of the Working Parties, Dr Weih was elected to coordinate these linkages. It was announced that the 45th Executive Committee Meeting would be held to coincide with the IUFRO International Poplar Symposium event in Orvieto, Italy, from 20 to 25 September 2010.

PART II. REPORT OF THE 23rd SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION

ORGANIZATION

1. The 23rd Session of the International Poplar Commission (IPC) was jointly hosted by the Government of China, the Beijing Forestry University, the Chinese Forestry Society and the Chinese Academy of Forestry, and was held in Beijing, China, from 27 to 30 October 2008.
2. The Session was attended by 185 delegates and advisers from 29 countries, including 23 member countries of the Commission: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America. Observers attended from Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Estonia and the Russian Federation, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the Beijing Forestry University (staff and students). The List of Participants is in *Annex III*.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

3. Hon. Vice Minister Zhang Jianlong, State Forest Administration, Beijing, China, opened the 23rd Session as the host Government and as a beneficiary of the services provided by the International Poplar Commission. He outlined the critical importance that the 7 million hectares of plantations, agroforestry systems and shelterbelts of Poplars and Willows played in China. He highlighted that they provided a valuable feedstock for industries for a diverse range of forest products for domestic and export trade, but also non-wood forest products such as fodder for livestock and valuable medicines. He stressed that Poplars and Willows also provided shelter, shade and protection of soil, water, crops, livestock and dwellings; played an important role in phytoremediation of severely degraded sites, rehabilitation of fragile ecosystems (including combating desertification), forest landscape restoration; and as fast growing species, were effective at sequestering carbon. He further stressed that they created employment, boosted exports and contributed to social and economic development and sustainable livelihoods in rural areas. He outlined that Poplars and Willows also beautified urban and peri-urban parks, schools, lakes, waterways, recreational areas and highways as green buffers. He highlighted the crucial roles that international cooperation had played in the transfer of science and technology of Poplar and Willow into rural and urban development in China. He thanked the International Poplar Commission and FAO for facilitating transfer of knowledge and technology and especially referred to the GCP/CPR/009/BEL Project (1990-2002) in the Three North Shelterbelt region as a good example.
4. Prof. Dr. Yin Weilun, on behalf of the joint hosts, welcomed participants. He highlighted that China had the largest planted Poplar and Willow resources in the world, particularly in the Three North and Central China regions. He highlighted that Poplars and Willows were grown in a range of mechanisms integrated with agriculture, livestock, poultry, viticulture, apiculture and aquaculture interwoven in meeting peoples' wellbeing. He reiterated that Poplars and Willows were grown for commercial production of wood and non-wood forest products in some instances, whilst in others for flood control, to combat desertification or rehabilitation degraded lands and in others to beautify city infrastructure and recreational areas. He stressed the importance of the transfer of knowledge and technology, not only internationally but also within a large country like China. He recalled that China had imported Poplar germplasm, knowledge and technology in recent decades, assisted by the International Poplar Commission. Chinese scientists, policy makers and managers had applied Poplar and Willow science and technology to suit their own unique social, cultural, environmental, economic,

technical and organizational contexts. This had resulted in a rich diversity in growing, uses and users of Poplar and Willow products. He highlighted the major industries (pulp, paper, plywood, veneer, panels, reconstituted boards, flooring, sawn timber, packing crates, pallets, furniture manufacturing and increasingly for bioenergy/biofuel production) had developed in China in recent years.

5. Mr Jim Carle, Secretary of the IPC, in welcoming participants on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, drew attention to the scale, role and social, environmental and economic importance of Poplars and Willows globally. He emphasized the crucial role that Poplars and Willows played in China in combating desertification, flood control, rehabilitation of degraded lands and in provision of a wide range of forest products and environmental and social services. He reaffirmed the role of the IPC as a Statutory Body of FAO and requested participants to explore new initiatives in deriving achievable programmes of work and in making sound recommendations to FAO and Governments that would be directly relevant for Poplars, Willows and peoples' well-being. He also stressed the importance of Poplars and Willows in meeting the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Forum for Forestry (UNFF) and other international processes.

6. Participants were welcomed by Dr Stefano Bisoffi, Chairperson, IPC who stressed the unprecedented changes in China in general and Poplar and Willow culture in particular, since the 18th Session of the IPC, hosted by China in 1988. He outlined that the theme then was "Poplar Cultivation Towards 2000", but stressed that it would not have been possible to have imagined the changes in Poplar and Willow culture since that time. He reaffirmed that China now led the world in scale and diversity of planted Poplars and Willow end uses and in advanced biotechnology, genomic research and molecular breeding and development of Poplars. He noted that the 23rd Session was the largest in terms of number of participants, papers submitted and the range of activities within the Session and pre- and post- Session study tours to Inner Mongolia, and Henan and Nanjing Provinces respectively. He also recalled the successful pre-Session Conference on "Engineered Wood Products Based on Poplar and Willow Wood". He reminded participants that the International Poplar Commission needed to translate outputs into development outcomes and to assist FAO in serving their member country needs. Revitalization of Working Parties and mobilization of National Poplar Commissions were highlighted as a focus of this Session. He outlined the format and the intent for full participation in the 23rd Session and requested decisive and achievable recommendations.

7. Prof. Dr. Yin Weilun (China) was elected as Chairperson, and Messrs Sven M.G. De Vries (the Netherlands) and John Alvin Stanturf (United States of America) were elected joint Co-Chairpersons.

8. The Provisional Agenda was adopted without amendment (see *Annex I(b)*).

SYNTHESIS OF COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORTS

9. Country Progress Reports for the period 2004 through 2007 were received from the National Poplar Commissions of 19 member countries (see *Annex V*). The contents of the National Reports were synthesized into two IPC Working Papers:

- IPC/6 – "Synthesis of Country Progress Reports, Activities Related to Poplar and Willow Cultivation and Utilization, 2004 through 2007, prepared for the 23rd Session, International Poplar Commission, 2008". The Synthesis was made available in:

English (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/011/k3380e/k3380e00.htm>)

French (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/k3380f/k3380f.pdf>)

Spanish (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/k3380s/k3380s.pdf>)

- IPC/7 – “Publications Listed in Country Progress Reports” prepared for the 23rd Session, International Poplar Commission, 2008 (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/011/k3333e/k3333e00.htm>).

10. These Working Papers were available on the Internet prior to the 23rd Session and distributed to all participants in hard and electronic copies. Additionally, the Synthesis was presented as a Keynote Address by the Secretary to the plenary session – “Synthesis of Country Progress Reports: Highlights, 30 October 2008”.

11. Selected highlights extracted from the Synthesis included:

- In the vast majority of countries reporting, poplar and willow cultivation and uses are well established in the national economy and most countries express objectives towards an increase of those activities.
- Government policies are generally positive towards poplar and willow cultivation and use.
- The cultivation of poplars and willows is seen in many countries as part of the integrated rural landscape in which it can contribute to sustainable livelihoods and integrated rural development, including agriculture, with livestock and cash crop production, horticulture and viticulture. Agroforestry systems using intercropping, mostly with poplars, are common and generally seen as very positive for the farmers because they provide regular and relatively secure economic returns.
- Many countries still experience organizational and technical challenges. For example, the regulatory mechanisms to ensure a supply of certified nursery planting materials to the growers are reported to be insufficient in some cases. This has major effects on growth and yield performance and a significant impact on wood quality for the processing industries.
- Whereas poplar has been grown and used for a longer period of time, interest for willow cultivation and wood processing is definitely gaining momentum. In some countries, it is noted that farmers are still hesitant to plant willows, as future demand is uncertain and prices difficult to predict.
- There is continued awareness regarding the value of natural stands and species of poplars and willows for tree improvement possibilities.
- Programmes for the conservation of natural poplar and willow stands are generally strong in most countries, but are proving difficult in some.
- Insect and disease infestations and damages continue to have major impact on forest health, growth and stem quality for both poplars and willows.
- Programmes concerning the genetic modification of poplars are being actively pursued, both in developed and developing economies, and the poplar genome has been mapped. Many countries report significant progress in genetic characterization and manipulation to provide resistance against pests, diseases and other stresses, namely drought or flooding, improve technical properties as well as growth and yield.
- The utilization of poplars and willows is diversifying into a wide range of solid and engineered wood and fibre products.
- The use of poplars and willows as a source of renewable energy is accelerating in several countries.
- The contribution of poplars and willows cultivation systems and products to carbon sequestration is also gaining major interest.
- Phytoremediation of polluted soil and water using poplars and willows is being implemented in several countries, essentially on all continents.
- Poplars and willows are increasingly used for forest landscape restoration, rehabilitation of degraded lands, and combating desertification.

- Forest certification has been applied to poplar cultivation in some countries to demonstrate social, environmental and economic sustainability.
- Research has continued to be very active although financial constraints are identified by most countries.
- The great amount of literature produced in the last decade on willow and poplar cultivation and use indicates not only research interest (and gaps) but also that many countries see these species as valuable solutions to major issues such as sustainable social and economic development, energy needs, biodiversity protection, etc.
- The number of contacts and exchanges between and within member countries of the IPC confirm strong interest in the growing and utilization of poplars and willows and the need for strong transfer mechanisms, both from a technical and policy-making perspective. In this context, the IPC continues to provide value for participating countries.

The issues and trends noted in the Synthesis reports that could impact future technical or policy making developments include:

- In some countries, innovative policies are needed to better integrate the development of technology-based poplar and willow plantations and wood-based industries, as a means to increase social benefits, including employment opportunities, environmental protection and economic returns.
- Some countries are clearly in a transition period towards a significant increase in poplar and willow cultivation and use. One of the key conditions for success will be in the quality and level of training all along the value chain.
- The development of agroforestry opportunities using poplars and willows will need to overcome certain barriers, namely the absence of tradition for such projects, poor knowledge and technical transfer, restricted financial support (major investment costs are upfront whereas returns occur some years later) or unorganized markets for the wood produced, often in rural areas.
- The pathways to establish compatibility between poplar and willow cultivation and protected areas networks have not yet been clearly identified in most countries.
- The current precarious status of *P. nigra* points to the importance of establishing and maintaining global monitoring systems to ensure that genetic biodiversity is protected. The use of non-indigenous poplar and willow species will in all likelihood continue, at least in most countries, but increasingly, the recourse to indigenous species will be favoured, particularly in areas presenting high biodiversity or ecological sensitivities.
- Genomics is generally seen as the key for making poplars and willows a feedstock of choice for bioenergy. New findings are occurring and communicated frequently. One of the challenges, from a global perspective, will be in ensuring that the gains from energy consumption using such biomass will not be overshadowed by unforeseen negative environmental, social or economic benefits. For example, striking the balance between using hectares for biomass production and for agricultural purposes has already become a global issue. It must be ensured that poplar and willow cultivation is part of integrated solutions.
- Biosafety issues are being raised in the context of genomics research and applications. Given that an increasing number of transgenic poplar and willow plants are being tested and produced, much work is needed to examine their short- and long-term effects on the environment, including gene flow with other species, gene stability, etc. Additional efforts are also essential in regards to containment strategies.
- In many countries, social opposition to genetically modified organisms remains high. All local and global strategies to further develop poplar and willow cultivation systems will need to address these concerns, provide solutions and identify scientifically-sound responses in guiding forest management policies. This has become particularly important in today's globalized world.

- The role of poplar and willow cultivated systems within carbon credit equations is still unclear. The carbon mitigation potential coming from willow and poplar plantations, for instance in restoration of degraded lands or unused agricultural lands, is immense. The fact that poplars and willows can be used as substitutes to greater carbon emission sources for energy purposes also holds tremendous promise to support greenhouse gas emission reductions. Adaptation to climate change was rarely mentioned as such in the various country progress reports but the fast-growing profile of poplar and willow short-rotation plantations would appear to be a significant asset because practices and approaches can be more easily changed in response to climate, over short periods of time. For the vast majority of countries, there is a strong need for policy development support in these areas.
- Bioenergy producers are now competing with more traditional industries for the same fibre material. Some countries mentioned that this may already be creating an imbalance between supply and demand as well as additional pressures on price. It can also have a profound effect on how forest stands are tended because wood product manufacturing and biomass production do not necessarily require the same approach and the value chains can be quite different.
- In all likelihood, the emerging industries of nano-materials and nano-enabled products offer tremendous potential for poplar and willow. This area is just beginning to be explored. Here again, genomics may play a significant role.

23rd SESSION THEME: POPLARS, WILLOWS AND PEOPLE'S WELLBEING

12. The theme of the 23rd Session was “Poplars, Willows and People’s Wellbeing”. There were 247 papers submitted for the 23rd Session, of which 42 percent were contributed by China. Developing countries, or those with economies in transition, contributed 19 percent of the papers. Although many papers were inter-disciplinary, the distribution by principal Working Party was: Poplar and Willow Genetics, Conservation and Improvement (91); Poplar and Willow Production Systems (54); Environmental Applications of Poplars and Willows (20); Poplar and Willow Insects and Other Animal Pests (7); Harvesting and Utilization of Poplar and Willow Wood (42); and Poplar and Willow Diseases (8). Seven papers addressed cross-cutting issues.

13. The paper summaries submitted to the 23rd Session of the IPC were published in Working Paper, IPC/5 - “Poplars, Willows and Peoples’ Wellbeing: Abstracts of Papers submitted to the 23rd Session, International Poplar Commission, 2008” (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/k3334e/k3334e.pdf>). The Working Paper was available on the Internet prior to the 23rd Session and was distributed in hard and electronic copies to all participants on registration.

14. The detailed programme can be referenced in *Annex II (b)* and the authors and titles of papers presented are in *Annex IV*. The sessions at a glance can be viewed below.

Opening Plenary Session

15. The following keynote addresses were delivered in the opening plenary in support of the theme:

- Jim Richardson – *FAO/IPC Publication “Poplars and Willows in the World”: A Progress Report*
- Brian Liu – *An International Investor’s Perspective on Timberland Opportunities in China*
- Joris Van Acker – *Future Impacts of Poplar and Willow on the Evolving European Forestry-Wood Industry Chain*
- Liu Lv – *Present Status of Development of Plywood Industry Cluster in China*
- Domenico Coaloa – *Forest Certification for Poplar Plantations: a New Market Opportunity*
- Gulshan Ahuja Kumar – *Poplars Outside Forests (POFs) in India: a Potential Resource for Socio-Economic Development and Ecological Restoration*

- Yin Weilun – *Effects of Different Pruning Intensities on Photosynthetic Characters, Growth and Yield of Crops in Agroforestry*
- Edgardo Casaubon – *Silvopastoral Systems with Poplar in the Lower Delta of the Paraná River, Argentina*
- J.G. (Judson) Isebrands – *Environmental Uses of Poplars and Willows: A Worldwide Overview*
- Katrin Heinsoo – *Factors Limiting Use of Short Rotation Coppice for Wastewater Purification and Sewage Sludge Utilization*
- Brian Stanton – *Populus Hybridization for the Renewable Transportation Fuels Industry: Integration of Genomic Tools into a Varietal Development Program*
- Kyung-Hwan Han – *Understanding the Transcriptional Regulation of Wood Formation in Poplar: A Step Toward Optimizing Ligno-Cellulosic Feedstock for Biofuel Productivity and Processing*
- Martin Weih – *Breeding for High and Sustainable Biomass Production of Salix: Bridging Molecular Genetics, Ecophysiology and Ecology*
- Matthias Fladung - *Elimination of Marker Genes and Targeted Integration of Transgenes via the FLP/FRT-Recombination System*
- Xueqing Wan – *An Overview of Populus Genetic Resource in Southwest China*

Closing Plenary Session

16. The following keynote addresses were delivered in the closing plenary:

- Jim Carle - *Synthesis of Data Reported in Country Progress Reports 2008*
- Sas Biswas - *Livelihood Studies of Willow-Dependent Communities of the Indian Trans-Himalayan Region, with Emphasis on Sustainable Management of the Bioresource and Improved Well-being*
- Pedro Garnica - *Engineered Wood Products from Poplar Wood*

17. The following announcements were delivered in the closing plenary:

- Brian Stanton - *5th International Poplar Symposium, Italy 2010*
- Alberto Del Lungo - *Poplars and Willows for Sustainable Livelihoods and Land-use in the East Mediterranean and Central Asian Countries, an Italy-FAO Project*
- Jagdish Kishwan - *Proposal to host the 24th IPC Session, 2012*
- Mirta Rosa Larrieu - *13th World Forestry Congress, Argentina, October 2009*

18. The following business reports were presented in the closing plenary:

- Julia Kuzovkina (Chairperson) - *Sub-Committee on Nomenclature and Registration*
- Mauritz Ramstedt (on behalf of Sylvie Augustin, Chairperson) – *Working Party on Poplar and Willow Insects and other Animal Pests*
- Mauritz Ramstedt (Vice-Chairperson) – *Working Party on Poplar and Willow Diseases*
- Sasa Orlovič (Vice-Chairperson) – *Working Party on Poplar and Willow Genetics, Conservation and Improvement*
- Theo Verwijst (Chairperson) – *Working Party on Poplar and Willow Production Systems*
- Jud Isebrands (Chairperson) – *Working Party on Environmental Applications of Poplars and Willows*
- Joris Van Acker (Chairperson) – *Working Party on Harvesting and Utilization of Poplar and Willow Wood*

19. Dr. Bisoffi, Chairperson, IPC, presented the conclusions and recommendations from the IPC 23rd Session to the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO).

Concurrent Sessions

20. The organization and scheduling of concurrent and joint meetings were arranged to encourage interlinkages between the Working Parties. The concurrent session themes included:

Poplar and Willow Genetics, Conservation and Improvement

- Genome Analysis and Gene Function
- Genetic Diversity Understanding and Conservation
- Breeding Selection
- Breeding Selection Tools
- Genetic Transformation
- Sexual Reproduction and Polyploidization

Poplar and Willow Production Systems

- Poplars in Economic and Social Development
- Short Rotation Forestry and Biomass Production
- Cultivation of Poplars and Willows

Environmental Applications of Poplars and Willows

- Poplars, Willows and the Environment

Poplar and Willow Protection

- Insects and Other Animal Pests and Diseases of Poplars and Willows

Harvesting and Utilization of Poplar and Willow Wood

- Wood Technology

BUSINESS REPORTS

Report of the Sub-Committee on Nomenclature and Registration

21. Dr. Julia Kuzovkina (USA) was elected as the Chairperson for the 2008-2012 period, Dr. Stefano Bisoffi (Italy) as the Vice-Chairperson and Dr. Lorenzo Vietto (Italy) as the Technical Secretary.

22. The Sub-Committee remained the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for the genus *Populus*. As such the IPC maintains the Register. This entails collection of information on new cultivars and checking congruence with nomenclature rules. The Register has been maintained by the Breeding and Selection Department, ISP-Casale Monferrato, Italy in close collaboration with the Working Party on Poplar and Willow Genetics, Conservation and Improvement. The current version of the Register is available at the IPC Web site www.fao.org/forestry/site/ipc

23. The aims of the Register are to: promote uniformity, accuracy and stability in the naming of cultivars; avoid possible sources of ambiguity in communications and records; and seek consensus among users.

24. Critical constraints identified that have prevented the Sub-Committee fulfilling its ICRA role effectively, included:

Poplars

- Weakness of the structure of the Sub-Committee with the workload falling on a few individuals;
- Lack of awareness of the scope and importance of Registration of cultivar names among breeders, nurserymen and even National Poplar Commissions or other authorities that oversee the trade of propagation material; and
- As a consequence there have been difficulties in keeping the Register updated. The National Reports to the IPC are proof that many cultivars are reported as being widely planted but not listed in the Register.

Willows

- No ICRA has been appointed by the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS);
- *Salix* is not included in legislation that, in some parts of the world (e.g. EU), regulate the trade of forest propagation material;
- Thus far, commercial breeders do not appreciate the advantages of a registration procedure and consider it bureaucratic;
- The huge number of species (10 times that of *Populus*), broader geographic distribution and immense possibilities of interspecific crossing make the possibility of mis-identification very high; and
- The growing interest of commercial trade in willows, due to their use in short rotation forestry for the production of energy, landscaping, phytoremediation and restoration of degraded lands poses an increasing risk of complete loss of control of cultivar identity.

25. The programme of action for the next four years included:

- Reinforce the Sub-Committee by re-constituting a network of contact persons in as many countries as possible;
- Raise awareness of the different actors, starting with the National Poplar Commissions and other Authorities. The network of contact persons will be essential as the official channels failed to produce tangible results. A new attempt will be made to approach the National Poplar Commissions through the FAO Secretariat;
- The *Populus* Register will be updated in two ways:
 - Forms and guidelines appearing on the IPC website will be checked against the current edition of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, and in the future, against the new edition (expected in 2009), and amended accordingly;
 - Literature and other reports will be scanned in order to locate cultivars that are not listed in the Register and seek information on them;
- The IPC will apply to the ISHS to be appointed ICRA for the genus *Salix* and the first steps of the establishment of a Register will be initiated that is the compilation of a checklist of names for the possible identification of homonyms, synonyms, trade designation, conserved epithets, unacceptable names, etc;
- Provided volunteers are forthcoming, a standard portfolio of photos of registered cultivars will be prepared; and
- Together with the Working Party on Genetics, Conservation and Improvement, a database and living gene bank of registered cultivars will be prepared.

26. Recommendations to the IPC Secretariat included:

- The IPC give full support to the establishment of a Register for the genus *Salix* and the Secretariat submit an application to the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) to be appointed as the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA).
- The “Dichotomous Key for Nursery Identification of the Main Poplar Clones Cultivated in Europe” should be translated into English (and possibly other languages) and be published as a Working Paper by the Secretariat and posted on the IPC website.

Working Party on Poplar and Willow Diseases

27. Dr. Marijke Steenackers (Belgium) was elected as the Chairperson for the 2008-2012 period, Dr. Mauritz Ramstedt (Sweden) as the Vice-Chairperson and Dr. Edilene Machado (Brazil) as the Technical Secretary.

28. Constraints identified for the Working Party to be more effective included:

- Lack of awareness by researchers in the field of the IPC and Working Party activities;
- Insufficient young scientists involved;
- Insufficient involvement of the private sector;
- Insufficient networking and use of the Working Party web portal maintained by the IPC Secretariat; and
- Weak linkages with other Working Parties.

29. The programme of action for the next four years included:

- Conduct a joint meeting between the Diseases and Insects Working Parties (and possibly others), to coincide with the 45th Executive Committee Meeting and the International Poplar Symposium, Orvieto, Italy, September 2010;
- Collaborate with the EU Treebreedex Project to conduct the International Workshop on “Development of Screening Methods for Disease Resistance”, Belgium, September 2009. First call, July 2009;
- Update the membership list of active researchers on Poplar and Willow diseases and to the Directory of Poplar and Willow Specialists and the IPC website by July 2009;
- Routinely post an annotated bibliography of Poplar and Willow disease publications and upload these to the IPC website. A first version of publications for the last four years to be uploaded by July 2009;
- Prepare a database of Poplar and Willow disease projects and other relevant web links;
- Coordinate a common international collaboration project on *Melampsora* rust. Questionnaire to be sent out by early 2009;
- Coordinate the Chapter on Poplar and Willow Diseases in the book “Poplars and Willows in the World” by March 2009;
- Prepare during 2009 a Newsroom as an informal forum and fast information, to include short notes on Poplar and Willow diseases and to encourage contributors to add new information and ideas; and
- Link the new “Forpath” network through the IPC website.

Working Party on Poplar and Willow Insects and Other Animal Pests

30. Dr. Sylvie Augustin (France), Chairperson and Dr. John Charles (New Zealand), Vice-Chairperson retained their positions for the 2008-2012 period.

31. Some insects and other animals pose a demonstrable threat to the world forests, including an increasingly one to both endemic and exotic Poplars and Willows. The Working Party can assist in increasing awareness and reducing the incidence and impacts of invasive insects and other animal pests for Poplar and Willow production and products trade. The aim of the Working Party is to provide international connectivity (networks, websites, publications, lists of experts, etc.) between researchers on, and producers of, Poplars and Willows through National Poplar Commissions, the International Poplar Commission and other relevant institutions (International Poplar Symposium, IUFRO).

32. The constraints identified for the Working Party to be more effective, included:

- Too many insect problems, too few entomologists;
- Low participation in activities, dependence on dedicated few;
- Limited duration of research contracts limits voluntary work;
- Lack of funding for research in this field; and
- Shortage of taxonomic expertise.

33. The opportunities identified included:

- Increased contact with IUFRO entomologists and pest management teams within countries (e.g. China) and regions to extract information of relevance for Poplars and Willows;
- Broaden entomology contact lists, including through FAO and existing networks;
- Better use of the IPC Working Party portals to improve communications and outreach; and
- Identify and integrate common projects within or between Working Parties.

34. The programme of action for the next four years included:

- Complete the Chapter on Poplar and Willow Insects and Other Animal Pests in the book “Poplars and Willows in the World”;
- Strengthen the Insects and Other Animal Pests web portal on the IPC website (update list of entomologists and contact details, publications, main research areas, etc.); and
- Conduct a joint meeting with the Working Party on Poplar and Willow Diseases, to coincide with the IUFRO International Poplar Symposium, Orvieto, Italy, September 2010.

Working Party on Harvesting and Utilization of Poplar and Willow Wood

35. Dr. Joris Van Acker (Belgium) was elected as the Chairperson for the 2008-2012 period, with Prof. Dr. Yukun Hua (China, representing Asia), Mr. Pedro Garnica (Spain, representing Europe), Prof. Dr. Ahmed Koubba (Canada, representing North America) and Mr. Raúl Suárez (Argentina, representing Latin America) as the Vice-Chairpersons, and Mr. Patrick Mertens (Belgium) as the Technical Secretary.

36. Constraints identified for the Working Party to be more effective, included:

- Current IPC member countries and National Poplar Commissions have limited knowledge and commitment to actions of the Working Party;
- The voluntary nature of contributions can limit the time and inputs that Working Party members can make; and
- The Poplar and Willow forest grower/supplier – wood industries processing – end user chains can be complex and vary markedly between member country contexts.

37. The programme of action for the next four years included:

- The Working Party Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and the Technical Secretaries will be redefined to strengthen regional networking for China, Asia, Latin America, North America, Africa and Europe;
- Better use be made of the IPC Working Party website to inform members of the action plans, needs and results; update the Harvesting and Utilization Section of the Global Directory of Poplar and Willow Experts;
- Organize a dedicated workshop/conference on technical aspects of producing Poplar and Willow wood products, including topics on harvesting and utilization, to be organized back-to-back with other conferences (e.g. International Poplar Symposium, Italy, September 2010);
- Preparation of a database of publications related to harvesting, utilization and forest products properties;

- Examine current research and initiate new priority research collaborative projects to advance the utilization of Poplars and Willows (e.g. comparison of biomass for energy with other forest products options);
- Set up a support systems for young scientists and students (PhD and post graduate) with grants for short-term scientific missions, conference participation, etc.;
- Set up a database on Poplar and Willow harvesting, utilization industries and wood technology in IPC member countries and those countries with significant Poplar and Willow utilization, in a similar way as COST E44 of the European Union (Wood Processing Strategy);
- Contribute to the Chapter on Poplar and Willow Properties and Utilization in the book “Poplars and Willows in the World”; and
- Support, with Harvesting and Utilization inputs, to the proposal/justification for a new Working Party on Socio-economic Issues of Poplar and Willow Development (sustainable land-use and livelihoods, climate change mitigation and adaptation and bioenergy/biofuel).

Working Party on Poplar and Willow Genetics, Conservation and Improvement

38. Dr. Teresa Cerrillo (Argentina) was elected as the Chairperson for the 2008-2012 period, Dr. Sasa Orlović (Serbia) and Dr. Zhang Qiwen (China) as the Vice-Chairpersons, and Dr. Ian McIvor (New Zealand) as the Technical Secretary.

39. The Working Party mandate encompasses conservation of natural genetic resources and ecosystems as well as genetic improvement by conventional breeding and application, molecular genetic tools and techniques, genetic transformations and new cultivars for a range of purposes (bioenergy, phytoremediation, water treatment, etc.).

40. The programme of action for the next four years included:

- Complete the database on Poplar and Willow breeding programmes and collections;
- Prepare a database on Poplar and Willow clones collection and gene banks;
- Apply standard designs for Poplar and Willow breeding programmes;

41. Recommendations to the IPC Secretariat included:

- Sustainability criteria of Poplars and Willows balance the dimensions between production and economics, livelihoods of people and communities and the ecological factors, including the conservation of genetic diversity;
- Reinforce the need for greater genetic diversity and new genetic materials in planted Poplar and Willow breeding programmes (particularly commercial plantations) to spread biological and economic risks; and
- Strengthen the understanding, linkages and information flows between traditional breeding programmes and molecular genetic tools and technologies for Poplar and Willow integrated breeding programmes.

Working Party on Poplar and Willow Production Systems

42. Prof. Dr. Theo Verwijst (Sweden) was elected as the Chairperson for the 2008-2012 period, Dr. Tim Volk (USA) as the Vice-Chairperson, and Ms. Mirta Rosa Larrieu (Argentina) as the Technical Secretary.

43. The scope of the Working Party includes the technical, social, environmental/ecological and economic dimensions of Poplar and Willow production systems, whether to provide biomass or other products or services to society.

44. The programme of action for the next four years included:

- Update and maintain the Working Party web portal on the IPC website, including list of experts, meetings schedule and links to associated sites;
- Strengthen links with the other IPC Working Parties on matters pertaining to production systems;
- Document and display cases of sustainable management of production systems;
- Encourage Governments and National Poplar Commissions to address such Poplar and Willow issues as sustainable cropping systems and public education/awareness of their importance for mitigation of climate change;
- Strengthen outreach and mailing lists with the International Energy Agency (IEA) and IUFRO; and
- Conduct a Working Party side event at the IUFRO International Poplar Symposium, Orvieto, Italy, September 2010.

45. Recommendations to the IPC Secretariat included:

- Raise awareness about the important role of Poplar and Willow production systems in mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change; and
- Strengthen cooperation between the IPC Working Parties to address the adaptation of Poplar and Willow growing systems in anticipation of the on-going climate change.

Working Party on Environmental Applications of Poplars and Willows

46. Dr. Jud Isebrands (USA) was elected as the Chairperson for the 2008-2012 period, Dr. Jannis Dimitriou (Sweden) and Dr. Sharon Doty (USA) as the Vice-Chairpersons, and Dr. Drusilla Riddell-Black (UK) as the Technical Secretary.

47. The Working Party purpose is to better share the knowledge and technology on the implementation of cost-effective environmental applications of Poplars and Willows to contribute to sustainable livelihoods and rural development. Within the scope of site and landscape improvement the Working Party includes ecosystem services, urban and rural amenity, combating desertification and salinization, shelterbelts and windbreaks, riparian bank and slope stabilization and soil rehabilitation/restoration. Within the scope of phytoremediation of polluted soils and waters, the Working Party includes buffer zones, contaminated sites, wastewater treatment/management and organic waste management.

48. The main achievements for the 2004-2007 period included:

- Conducted three technical, inter-Working Party meetings in Sweden and Estonia (May 2005), Northern Ireland (May 2006) and Canada (June 2007);
- Contributed to the Environmental Applications Chapter in the book "Poplars and Willows in the World";
- Prepared promotional poster and leaflet in English, French, Spanish and Italian; and
- Upgraded and updated the Working Party portal on the IPC website.

49. The programme of action for the next four years included:

- Conduct two inter-Working Party meetings to consider topics not addressed in previous meetings, prior to the 24th Session of IPC:
 - the first to coincide with IUFRO's International Poplar Symposium meeting, Orvieto, Italy, September 2010;
 - the second, venue and date to be confirmed;

- Reorganize and rationalize the Environmental Applications web portal including revision of case studies, directory of specialists and institutions by April 2009;
- Prepare information notes to introduce and explain “state-of-the-art” applications of Poplars and Willows in slope stabilization/erosion control and waste water management by September 2010; and
- Prepare information notes on two other topics (to be decided) before the 24th Session of the IPC in 2012.

50. Recommendations to the IPC Secretariat included:

- Retain the scope of the Working Party on Environmental Applications as is;
- Planned technical meetings should retain a strong field visit component, jointly with other Working Parties;
- Material on the Working Party web pages should be expanded with contributions from more participants with broader geographic coverage;
- Future emphasis should be on topics not already addressed; and
- Wastewater treatment and re-use technology using Poplars and Willows should be encouraged for their economic and environmental benefits.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

Conclusions

51. It was reported that Poplars and Willows accounted for at least 80 million ha of natural and planted forests globally (natural forests 90 percent, planted forests 7 percent, and agroforestry systems 3 percent). Of the global Poplar and Willow resources in planted forests and agroforestry systems, 85 percent were grown in China. Poplars and Willows were among the fastest-growing trees in temperate regions, are easy to cultivate and form an important component of forestry and agricultural systems, often for small-scale farmers.

52. It was highlighted that Poplars and Willows provided a valuable feedstock for industries for a diverse range of forest products for poles, pulp and paper, panel boards, plywood, veneer, sawn timber, packing crates, pallets, furniture manufacturing and increasingly for bioenergy/biofuel production. They also provided a range of non-wood products such as fodder for livestock and valuable medicines. Poplars and willows also provided valuable environmental and social services. They provided shelter, shade and protection of soil, water, crops, livestock and dwellings; played an important role in phytoremediation of severely degraded sites, rehabilitation of fragile ecosystems (including combating desertification), forest landscape restoration (often integrated with agriculture, horticulture, viticulture and apiculture); and as fast growing species, were effective at sequestering carbon. They created employment, boosted exports and contributed to social and economic development and sustainable livelihoods in rural areas. They were also used to beautify urban and peri-urban parks, schools, lakes, waterways, recreational areas and highways as green buffers. Poplars in particular, were leading the way in application of advanced biotechnology, genomic research, molecular breeding and development.

Recommendations

53. The International Poplar Commission, through the Secretariat, Working Parties and National Poplar Commissions, recommended:

- Strengthening transfer of science, policy, planning and management knowledge and technology to support implementation of Phase I of the FAO-Italy supported project “*Poplars and Willows for*

Sustainable Livelihoods and Land-use in the East Mediterranean and Central Asian Countries” and assist in preparation of Phase II of the project.

- Recognition of the Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing Forestry University, Nanjing Forestry University, State Forest Administration as international centres of excellence in forestry education, training and outreach and be welcomed into the international networks to transfer knowledge and technology, particularly with regards to the research, development and management of Poplars and Willows.
- Supporting networks and partnerships between researchers, academics, policy makers, planners, managers (including the private sector and smallholders) to achieve sustainable management of Poplar and Willow resources in natural and planted forests, agroforestry systems and trees outside forests, to better integrate forestry and agriculture in more diversified landscapes, with emphasis on developing countries.

STUDY TOURS

54. A pre-Commission study tour hosted by the Forestry Bureau, Tongliao and the Beijing Forestry University, was conducted in Tongliao, Inner Mongolia from 23 to 25 October to view the activities related to combating desertification, including the follow up to the FAO-Belgium-China project (1990-2002) that supported conservation and ecological planting in the area. The study tour included technical meetings, briefings and debriefings with forestry authorities and visits to *ex-situ* poplar gene bank for conservation (*Populus simonii*), various hybrid clonal field tests (*P. simonii* × *P. nigra* and *P. deltoids* × *P. somonii*), plantings in plantation, shelterbelt and agroforestry systems, various site preparation and silviculture techniques and forest industries and wood products factories. The Three North Shelterbelt Programme applied the science and technology pioneered by the FAO-Belgium-China project and was expanding into larger afforestation programmes in a range of growing mechanisms to combat desertification and restore degraded landscapes in this harsh ecological zone.

55. A post-Commission study tour (50 people) hosted by the People’s Government and Forestry Bureaux of Puyang City and Siyang County, and the Jiangsu Academy of Forestry, Nanjing and Beijing Forestry University, was conducted to the environs of Puyang City (Henan Province), Siyang County and Nanjing City (Jiangsu Province) during the period 31 October to 4 November. The study tour included technical meetings, briefings and debriefings with forestry authorities and field visits to view the integration of poplars and willows in a diverse range of planting mechanisms with agricultural crops, livestock, poultry, aquaculture, urban beautification and flood control within the flood plains of the Yangtze, Huai and Yellow Rivers. The unique Chinese models of family-based plantings and village-based wood industries linked to large scale wood industries that produced a wide range of poplar-based forest products were demonstrated. A highlight was a visit to the Siyang Poplar Museum where the history and applications of poplar in China, import of germplasm from Europe (particularly from Italy), the transfer of knowledge and technology assisted by the IPC and the commercial and ecological importance of poplars were displayed. The study tour not only highlighted the poplar and willow culture but also the rich historical culture of Central China, of which our hosts were justly proud.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Book on Poplars and Willows in the World

56. Dr Jim Richardson and Dr. Jud Isebrands, Coordinating Editors, advised the status in preparation of the book “Poplars and Willows in the World: Meeting the Needs of Society and the Environment” (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/32608/en/>). The audience will include the public and private sectors, decision makers and policy makers in forestry, agriculture and environment ministries and foresters, ecologists, botanists, agronomists and environmental engineers. The scope would be global, increased

focus on willows, recognize the new focus on environmental uses and sustainable rural development, provide a sourcebook and information guide and contain a comprehensive bibliography, index, contacts and links to Internet resources. The content of the publication will include chapters as an Introduction; Poplars and willows in the world; Natural ecosystems; Genetic resources; Industrial plantations; Environmental uses; Abiotic stresses; Diseases; Animal pests; Wood properties and utilization; Markets, trends and outlook; Sustainable rural development; Conclusions; Appendices; Research agencies, institutions and organizations; Bibliography; Index; and Glossary.

57. It was outlined that each chapter was being prepared as a stand-alone FAO working paper uploaded in e-format to the IPC website in PDF format. The advantage is that maps, graphics and photographs were able to be used extensively to illustrate points. The e-format also allowed ready updating and peer feedback. Two chapters had been peer reviewed and were uploaded to the IPC website as working papers, with the aim to have remaining chapters uploaded to the web as working papers by March 2009.

58. Options for publishing the book through a publishing house were being investigated by FAO. Discussions would explore the commercial viability of publication in English, French and Spanish.

Revitalizing National Poplar Commissions

59. At a meeting of National Poplar Commission Chairpersons and Heads of Delegation to the 23rd Session, held on 28 October, Dr. Bisoffi stressed the importance of revitalizing National Poplar Commissions and requested feedback on how this could be achieved. He highlighted the availability of the IPC website portals that were available to promote the activities of the National Poplar Commissions.

60. The Secretariat advised that formal FAO communications regarding IPC activities were from the Office of the Director General of FAO to the member country appointed Ministry. In some, but not all instances, the Chairperson of the National Poplar Commission is consulted. The meeting requested that the Secretariat ensure that copies of formal communications also be sent to the Chairperson of the National Poplar Commissions for follow up.

61. The meeting highlighted that a significant proportion of the dynamic innovations and investment in Poplar and Willow tree improvement, growing and wood industries was from the private sector, whilst the National Poplar Commissions remained housed in Government agencies, often with Heads of Forestry as Chairpersons. There was potential for a disconnection between the Government and the private sector that needed to be avoided. Successful National Poplar Commissions depended heavily on champions who recognized and supported Poplar and Willow culture and use. The participation of the private sector in activities of the National Poplar Commissions was to be encouraged.

62. The meeting requested that the Secretariat prepare Guidelines for National Poplar Commissions to detail objectives, outcomes, outputs, activities, institutional issues, responsibilities, etc.

ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 2008-2012

63. From 14 candidates representing 11 countries, 12 were elected to the Executive Committee for the period 2008-2012. An election was held by secret ballot involving 18 country delegates authorized to represent their respective governments (Argentina, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, France, Germany, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and USA). The elections were monitored by a ballot committee including Messrs Jim Richardson (Canada), Jaime Ulloa (Chile) and Ms Drusilla Riddell-Black (UK).

64. The 12 elected members of the Executive Committee for the period 2008-2012 were Teresa Cerrillo (Argentina), Marijke Steenackers (Belgium), Patrick Mertens (Belgium), John Doornbos (Canada), Meng Zhu Lu (China), Catherine Bastien (France), Jagdish Kishwan (India), Stefano Bisoffi (Italy), Yeong Ban Koo (Republic of Korea), Sasa Orlovič (Serbia), Theo Verwijst (Sweden), and Judson Isebrands (USA).

65. At a subsequent informal meeting of the Executive Committee, Dr. Stefano Bisoffi was re-elected as Chairperson and Dr Judson Isebrands as Vice-Chairperson. Dr Jim Richardson (Canada), Prof. Dr. Yin Weilun (China) and Dr Martin Weih (Sweden) were voted as co-opted members to the Executive Committee

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

66. Dr. Jagdish Kishwan (India), presented the proposal of his country to host the 24th Session of the IPC in 2012 at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun to view the application of Poplar and Willow culture in Northern India, particularly smallholder production systems, agroforestry and uses.

OTHER MATTERS

IUFRO 5th International Poplar Symposium

67. Dr Brian Stanton reported that the Session on the IUFRO-Nanjing Forestry University joint hosting of the successful 4th International Poplar Symposium held in Nanjing, China from 5 to 9 June 2006. He announced that the 5th International Poplar Symposium would be held in Orvieto, Italy, from 20 to 25 September 2010, hosted by IUFRO, the National Research Council/Institute of Forest and Environmental Biology, University of Tuscia and the Agricultural Research Council. The theme would be “Meeting the needs of a low-carbon, bio-based society by utilizing the genetic and ecological potentials of poplar and willow”. The science programme would include genomics, proteomics and metabolomics; natural germplasm collection and riparian ecology; physiology and biotic/abiotic stress interactions; phytoremediation of polluted sites; carbon sequestration and atmospheric chemistry interactions by poplar plantations; and bioenergy plantations.

FAO-Italy Poplar Project

68. Dr Alberto Del Lungo reported that in mid-2009, there would be an international workshop in the preparatory process for formulating a Phase II proposal for the FAO-Italy Project “Poplars and Willows for Sustainable Livelihoods and Land-use in the East Mediterranean and Central Asian Countries”. The dates and location were to be confirmed.

World Forestry Congress

69. Ms Mirta Rosa Larrieu invited the International Poplar Commission participants from around the world to participate in the 13th World Forestry Congress, to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 18 to 25 October 2009. The theme of the Congress would be “Forest Development: A Vital Balance”.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

70. Dr. Stefano Bisoffi and Mr Jim Carle expressed grateful thanks to the Chinese Forestry Society, Beijing Forestry University, Chinese Academy of Forestry, the State Forest Administration and the Ministry of Agriculture, members of the organizing committee and all those providing support services, for a most successful meeting.

71. The session was closed by Prof. Dr. Yin Weilun, Chairperson, recognizing the efforts of the Working Parties in striving to derive programmes of work to serve National Poplar Commissions and Poplar and Willow stakeholders globally.

**INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION
FORTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Beijing, China, 26 October 2008**

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Activities of the Working Parties and of the Sub-Committee on Nomenclature and Registration of Poplars since the Forty-third Session of the Executive Committee in Rome, Italy, February 2007
4. Status of the Book: Poplars and Willows in the World
5. Proposals for the composition of the Executive Committee for the period 2008-2011
6. Proposals for the date and place of the next session of the Executive Committee
7. Responsibilities of the Working Groups
8. Development of the International Poplar Commission, its Working Parties, and Communications
9. Italian Project: Poplars and Willows for Sustainable Livelihoods and Land-use
10. Other matters

**INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION
TWENTY-THIRD SESSION AND RELATED SESSIONS
Beijing, China, 27 – 30 October 2008**

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of Officers
4. Poplars, Willows and People's Wellbeing
5. Synthesis of Country Progress Reports 2004-2007
6. Sub-committee on Nomenclature and Registration
7. Poplar and Willow Genetics, Conservation and Improvement
8. Poplar and Willow Diseases
9. Poplar and Willow Insects and other Animal Pests
10. Poplar and Willow Production Systems
11. Environmental Applications of Poplars and Willows
12. Harvesting and Utilization of Poplar and Willow Wood
13. Election of Members of the Executive Committee for the four-year period (2008-2011)
14. Date and place of next Session
15. Other matters

**INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION, TWENTY-THIRD SESSION
PROGRAMME SUMMARY**

| | Sunday 26 Oct. | Monday 27 October | Tuesday 28 October | | | Wednesday 29 October | | | Thursday 30 Oct |
|--------|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| 07:30 | | Registration | | | | | | | Elections of new Exec. Committee |
| 08:30 | Registration and distribution of materials Lobby | Welcome remarks: China, NPCs, FAO, IPC Chair of 23 rd Session Adoption of the Agenda | 1-A Poplars in economic and social development Mtg Room 5 | 1-B Genome analysis and gene function Mtg R. 6 | 1-C Genetic diversity understanding and conservation Mtg R. 8 | 5-A Poplars, willows and the environment Meeting Room 5 | 5-B Wood technology Meeting Room 6 | 5-C Sexual reproduction and polyploidization Meeting Room 8 | Synthesis of National Reports Biswas Garnica V th IPS, 2010 - Italian Project - IPC 24 th Session - World Forestry Congress, 2009 Election Results |
| 10:00 | | Break | Break | | | Break | | | Break |
| 10:30- | Executive Committee Informal meeting Meet. Room 2 | Richardson | 2-A Poplars in economic and social development Mtg R. 5 | 2-B Genome analysis and gene function Mtg.R.6 | 2-C Breeding and selection Mtg.R. 8 | 6-A Phytoremediation Meeting Room 5 | 6-B Cultivation of Poplars and Willows Meeting Room 6 | 6-C Nomenclature and Registration Meeting Room 8 | WP Reports 1-6 Recommendations to COFO Closing remarks |
| 10:45 | | Liu | | | | | | | |
| 11:00 | | Van Acker | | | | | | | |
| 11:15 | | Coaloe | | | | | | | |
| 11:30 | | Discussion | | | | | | | |
| 12:00 | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | | | Lunch | | | Lunch |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 13:30 | Executive Committee Formal Meeting Meet. Room 2 | Kumar Ahuja | 3-A Short rotation forestry and biomass production Mtg Room 5 | 3-B Genome analysis & gene function Mtg.R. 6 | 3-C Breeding and selection tools Mtg. R. 8 | Business Genetics E+S+F Mtg R.5 | Business Prod.Sys E Mtg.R. 6 | Business Env.Appl E Mtg.R. 8 | Business Insects E Mtg.R. 12 | Business Diseases E Mtg.R15 | Business Harv & Ut.il. E Mtg.R. 3 | New Ex.Comm. Informal Meeting |
| 13:45 | | Yin | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14:00 | | Casaubon | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14:15 | | Isebrands | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14:30 | | Heinsoo | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14:45 | Discussion | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15:00 | Break | Break | Break | | | Break | | | | | | |
| 15:30 | Executive Committee Formal Meeting Meeting Room 2 | Stanton | 4-A Short rotation forestry and biomass production Mtg Room 5 | 4-B Genetic transformation Mtg.R. 6 | 4-C Plant protection Mtg.R. 8 | Business Genetics E+S+F Mtg R. 5 | Business Prod.Sys E Mtg.R. 6 | Business Env.Appl E Mtg.R. 8 | Business Insects E Mtg.R. 12 | Business Diseases E Mtg.R. 15 | Business Harv & Ut. E Mtg.R. 3 | Visit to Beijing Olympic Stadium |
| 15:45 | | Han | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16:00 | | Weih | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16:15 | | Fladung | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16:30 | | Wan | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16:45 | Discussion | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10:00 | POSTER DISPLAY | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17:00 | POSTER DISPLAY | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18.00 | | Supper at "Dongyuan" Restaurant | Banquet at "Dongyuan" Restaurant | | | Supper at "Dongyuan" Restaurant | | | | | Supper at Dongyuan Restaurant | |
| 19.00 | Cocktail hosted by FAO Shangyuan Restaurant | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20.30 | | Beijing Opera performance | | | | | | | | | | |

Please note that Plenary meetings on Monday 27 October and on Thursday morning 30 October will be located in the Ginkgo Hall

Simultaneous interpretation E+F+S

**INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION, TWENTY-THIRD SESSION
DETAILED PROGRAMME**

Monday 27 October

| | | |
|-------|---|----------------------|
| 07:30 | Registration and distribution of material | |
| 08:30 | Opening Plenary Session | (Ginkgo Hall) |

10:00 Coffee

Plenary Session 1 - Poplars, willows and people's wellbeing: perspectives

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|------------|------------|----------|--|
| 10:30 | 57 | Richardson | Jim | FAO/IPC Publication ' <i>Poplars and Willows in the World</i> ': A Progress Report |
| 10:45 | 199 | Liu | Brian | An International Investor's Perspective on Timberland Opportunities in China |
| 11:00 | 184 | Van Acker | Joris | Future Impact of Poplar and Willow on the Evolving European Forestry-Wood Industry Chain |
| 11:15 | 134 | Coaloea | Domenico | Forest Certification for Poplar Plantations: a New Market Opportunity |
| 11:30 | Discussion | | | |

12:30 Lunch

Plenary Session 2 - Poplars, willows and people's wellbeing: perspectives

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|------------|-------------|---------------|---|
| 13:30 | 1 | Kumar Ahuja | Gulshan | Poplars Outside Forests (POFs) in India: a Potential Resource for Socio-Economic Development and Ecological Restoration |
| 13:45 | 71 | Yin | Weilun | Effects of Different Pruning Intensities on Photosynthetic Characters, Growth and Yield of Crops in Agroforestry |
| 14:00 | 168 | Casaubon | Edgardo | Silvopastoral Systems with Poplar in the Lower Delta of the Paraná River, Argentina |
| 14:15 | 122 | Isebrands | J.G. (Judson) | Environmental Uses of Poplars and Willows: A Worldwide Overview |
| 14:30 | 138 | Heinsoo | Katrin | Factors Limiting Use of Short Rotation Coppice for Wastewater Purification and Sewage Sludge Utilisation |
| 14:45 | Discussion | | | |

15:00 Coffee

Plenary Session 3 - Poplars, willows and people's wellbeing: perspectives

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|------------|------------|------------|---|
| 15:30 | 87 | Stanton | Brian | <i>Populus</i> Hybridization for the Renewable Transportation Fuels Industry: Integration of Genomic Tools into a Varietal Development Program |
| 15:45 | 109 | Han | Kyung-Hwan | Understanding the Transcriptional Regulation of Wood Formation in Poplar: A Step Toward Optimizing Ligno-Cellulosic Feedstock for Biofuel Productivity and Processing |
| 16:00 | 21 | Weih | Martin | Breeding for High and Sustainable Biomass Production of <i>Salix</i> : Bridging Molecular Genetics, Ecophysiology and Ecology |
| 16:15 | 171 | Fladung | Matthias | Elimination of Marker Genes and Targeted Integration of Transgenes via the <i>FLP/FRT</i> -Recombination System |
| 16:30 | 179 | Wan | Xueqing | An Overview of <i>Populus</i> Genetic Resource in Southwest China |
| 16:45 | Discussion | | | |

Tuesday 28 October

Concurrent Session 1-A: Poplars in economic and social development

(Meeting Room 5)

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|------------|------------|--------------|--|
| 08:30 | 163 | Mertens | Patrick G. | Needs and Opportunities for Vertical Organisation of the European Poplar Production and Transformation Chain |
| 08:45 | 18 | Bangarwa | Kulvir Singh | Production Potential, Market Fluctuations and Present Status of Exotic Poplar in India |
| 09:00 | 210 | Hua | Yukun | Development of Fast-Growing Poplar Industry: Plantation, Application and Replantation |
| 09:15 | 212 | Castro | Gaetano | Poplar Cultivation in Italy: History, State-of-the-Art, Perspectives |
| 09:30 | 15 | Toplu | Ferit | Poplar Development in Turkey |
| 09:45 | Discussion | | | |

Concurrent Session 1-B: Genome analysis and gene function

(Meeting Room 6)

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|------------|------------|----------|--|
| 08:30 | 158 | Du | Juan | Role of <i>ARBORKNOX2</i> in Regulating Secondary Growth in <i>Populus</i> |
| 08:45 | 250 | Lu | Meng-Zhu | Profiling of Genes Involved in the Regeneration of the Secondary Vascular System in Poplar |
| 09:00 | 36 | Zhang | Hechen | Ca ²⁺ /Calcineurin B-Like Signal Pathways in <i>Populus</i> |
| 09:15 | 166 | Chen | Jinhua | Genome-Wide Search and Expression Analysis of Poplar DR.EB2 Transcription Factor Genes |
| 09:30 | Discussion | | | |

Concurrent Session 1-C: Genetic diversity understanding and conservation**(Meeting Room 8)**

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|---------------|---------|--|
| 08:30 | 23 | Vanden Broeck | An | Interspecific Crossability Studies Provide Insight into the Risk of Genetic Extinction of European Black Poplar (<i>Populus nigra</i> L.) |
| 08:45 | 107 | Vietto | Lorenzo | Rehabilitation of the European Black Poplar (<i>Populus nigra</i> L.): Case Studies from Italy, Belgium and Germany |
| 09:00 | 82 | Tullus | Hardi | Hybrid Aspen (<i>Populus tremula</i> L. × <i>P. tremuloides</i> Michx.) Complex Study Programme in Hemiboreal Estonia |
| 09:15 | 56 | Fussi | Barbara | Tandem Repeats in a Group II Intron Provide Resolution in Phylogenetic and Phylogeographic Studies of the Genus <i>Populus</i> |
| 09:30 | | | | Discussion |

10:00 Coffee**Concurrent Session 2-A: Poplars in economic and social development****(Meeting Room 5)**

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|------------|--------------|---|
| 10:30 | 27 | Dhiman | Ramesh Chand | Evolution of Poplar-Based Agroforestry in India |
| 10:45 | 16 | Sharma | S.K. | Backyard Planting - A Vital Production System of Social Forestry in North-East India |
| 11:00 | 74 | Zhao | Yandong | A Precision Water-Saving Automatic Irrigation System Controlled by the Needs of Poplars |
| 11:15 | 243 | Hussain | Showkat | Indian Willows-Based Cricket Bats of International Significance of Trade and Income |
| 11:30 | 126 | Kuzovkina | Julia | <i>Salix</i> Production for the Floral Industry in North America |
| 11:45 | | | | Discussion |

Concurrent Session 2-B: Genome analysis and gene function**(Meeting Room 6)**

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|------------|---------|--|
| 10:30 | 153 | Huang | Qinjun | Analysis of SNPS Linked to Wood Properties of <i>Populus nigra</i> L. Gene Resources |
| 10:45 | 193 | Zheng | Huiquan | Isolation of a TIR-NBS-Like Gene Promoter from Triploid White Poplar and its Characterization in Transgenic Tobacco Plants |
| 11:00 | 204 | Yang | Xiaohan | Genome-Wide Identification of Lineage Specific Genes in <i>Arabidopsis</i> , <i>Oryza</i> and <i>Populus</i> |
| 11:15 | 65 | Xia | Ye | Genomic Survey and Gene Expression Analysis of the Cobra Gene Family in <i>Populus trichocarpa</i> |
| 11:30 | | | | Discussion |

Concurrent Session 2-C: Breeding and selection**(Meeting Room 8)**

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|------------|----------------|--|
| 10:30 | 202 | Sabatti | Maurizio | Adaptive Traits And Productivity of European Poplar Species |
| 10:45 | 84 | Zhang | Qiwen | Selection and Extension of New Poplar Varieties for Industrial Wood Plantation in China |
| 11:00 | 88 | Li | David, Shanwen | Development of the <i>Populus × canadensis</i> Taxon for Poplar Plantation Cultivation in China's Yellow River Basin |
| 11:15 | 3 | Tsarev | Anatoli P. | Long-Term Testing of Poplars in Russia |
| 11:30 | 118 | Kumar | Dinesh | Genetic Improvement of Exotic and Indigenous Poplars in India |
| 11:45 | 39 | Fang | Shengzuo | Effects and Mechanism of Exogenous Silicon in Alleviating Salt Stress in Poplar Seedlings |
| 12:00 | | | | Discussion |

12:00 Lunch**Concurrent Session 3-A: Short rotation forestry and biomass production****(Meeting Room 5)**

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|------------|---------|--|
| 13:30 | 22 | Dimitriou | Ioannis | Reducing Environmental Impacts of Short Rotation Coppice through Evidence-Based Integrated Decision Support Tools |
| 13:45 | 81 | Verani | Stefano | Traditional and Advanced Mechanization in Poplar Plantations: Analysis of Nine Logging Systems |
| 14:00 | 79 | McIvor | Ian | Energy Farming for Lake Taupo District, New Zealand: A New Mitigation Land Use? |
| 14:15 | 113 | Weger | Jan | Research on Native Species of Fast-Growing Trees (Poplar and Willows) for Short Rotation Coppice |
| 14:30 | 167 | Verwijst | Theo | The Effects of Pre-Emergence Variation in Willow Cuttings on the Development of Size and Weight Hierarchies in Willow Short Rotation Coppice |
| 14:45 | | | | Discussion |

Concurrent Session 3-B: Genome analysis and gene function**(Meeting Room 6)**

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|------------|-----------------|--|
| 13:30 | 141 | Wang | Yuanxiu | Comparative Genome Mapping of <i>Populus adenopoda</i> × <i>P. alba</i> , <i>P. deltoides</i> × <i>P. euramericana</i> and <i>P. trichocarpa</i> |
| 13:45 | 69 | Yan | Dong-hui | <i>In silico</i> Identification of Nuclear Factor Y Subunit B Genes with Potential Drought Tolerance in the Poplar Genome |
| 14:00 | 64 | Cheng | Zong-Ming (Max) | Concurrent Divergence in Coding and Promoter Regions of the Poplar Gene Family Encoding Xyloglucan Endotransglucosylase/Hydrolases |
| 14:15 | 189 | Li | Bo | Constructing a Transcriptome Map of <i>Populus tomentosa</i> Carr. with a Backcross Using CDNA-AFLP |
| 14:30 | | | | Discussion |

Concurrent Session 3-C: Breeding and selection tools**(Meeting Room 8)**

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|------------|------------|---|
| 13:30 | 181 | De Boever | Lieven | Procedures for Evaluating Occurrence of Tension Wood in Relation to the Industrial Processing of Poplar and Willow Wood |
| 13:45 | 183 | De Boever | Lieven | Potential of Wood Colour Measurements as a Tool for Early Selection of Genetically-Related Willow Clones |
| 14:00 | 25 | Mertens | Patrick G. | Possibilities for Identifying Veneer Peeling Quality in Still-Standing Trees |
| 14:15 | 182 | De Boever | Lieven | Stem Form and Internal Wood Quality of Selected Willow Clones |
| 14:30 | | | | Discussion |

15:00 Coffee**Concurrent Session 4-A: Short rotation forestry and biomass production****(Meeting Room 5)**

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|------------|-----------------|---|
| 15:30 | 247 | Paris | Pierluigi | Comparing <i>Populus</i> Clones for Short Rotation Forestry in Italy After Two Two-year Rotations: Survival, Growth and Yield |
| 15:45 | 95 | Werner | Astrid | The Use of Fast-Growing Woody Energy Crops for Bioremediation of Sewage Effluent |
| 16:00 | 85 | Facciotto | Gianni | Studies of Poplar and Willow Short Rotation Coppice Establishment |
| 16:15 | 86 | Eaton | James A. "Jake" | Renewable Energy from Sustainable Poplar Tree Farms |
| 16:30 | 92 | Heinze | Berthold | Selection of <i>P. deltoides</i> Clones for Biomass Production in Eastern Austria |
| 16:45 | | | | Discussion |

Concurrent Session 4-B: Genetic transformation**(Meeting Room 6)**

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|------------|----------|---|
| 15:30 | 155 | Jiang | Jing | Differential Proteomic Analysis of LEA-Transgenic and Non-Transgenic <i>Populus simonii</i> × <i>P. nigra</i> Under Salt Stress |
| 15:45 | 170 | Fladung | Matthias | Activation Tagging in Aspen Using an Inducible Two Component <i>Ac/DS</i> -Enhancer Element System |
| 16:00 | 172 | Fladung | Matthias | Faster Evaluation of Induced Floral Sterility in Transgenic Early Flowering Poplar |
| 16:15 | 150 | Su | Xiaohua | Salt Tolerance of Poplar Trees Transformed with the JEFRS Gene |
| 16:30 | 12 | Carlson | John | <i>P. xeuramericana</i> cv. 'Neva' Transformation with a Tyrosine-Rich <i>HRGP</i> Gene |
| 16:45 | | | | Discussion |

Concurrent Session 4-C: Plant protection**(Meeting Room 8)**

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|------------|-----------------|---|
| 15:30 | 132 | Giorcelli | Achille | Emerging Pests and Diseases in Poplar Cultivation in Italy |
| 15:45 | 206 | Ramstedt | Mauritz | Importance of Resistance Screening in Willow and Poplar Biomass Plantations |
| 16:00 | 42 | Anselmi | Naldo | Pathogenic Endophytic Fungi in Poplar Nursery Plants |
| 16:15 | 59 | Lucero | Gabriela Susana | Susceptibility of Leaves of Different <i>Populus</i> Clones to <i>Septoria musiva</i> in Mendoza, Argentina |
| 16:30 | 24 | Mertens | Patrick G. | Impact of Poplar Water Status on Leaf-Beetle (<i>Chrysomela populi</i>) Survival and Feeding |
| 16:45 | | | | Discussion |

Wednesday 29 October

Concurrent Session 5-A: Poplars, willows and the environment

(Meeting Room 5)

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|------------|------------|--|
| 08:30 | 173 | Casaubon | Edgardo | Forest Eco-Certification and Environmental Performance in the Low Buenos Aires Delta of the Paraná River, Argentina |
| 08:45 | 105 | Zhang | Xudong | Turbulent Flux of Carbon Dioxide Over Poplar Forest in Eastern China |
| 09:00 | 98 | Toljander | Ylva | Effects of Mycorrhizal Inoculations on Willow Foliar Chemical Resistance to Insect Herbivory: A Carbon Economy Perspective |
| 09:15 | 106 | Borodowski | Esteban D. | Cover of Fallen Tree Leaves Reduces Herbaceous Productivity Under Poplars in Silvopastoral Systems |
| 09:30 | 4 | Thomaes | Arno | Ecological Restoration: A New Market for Poplars |
| 10:00 | | | | Discussion |

Concurrent Session 5-B: Wood technology

(Meeting Room 6)

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|------------|----------|--|
| 08:30 | 237 | Van Acker | Joris | Development of Decay in Preservative Treated Poplar Plywood |
| 08:45 | 207 | Cao | Yongjian | Effect of Heat Treatment on Properties of Chinese White Poplar |
| 09:00 | | | | Discussion |

Concurrent Session 5-C: Sexual reproduction and polyploidization

(Meeting Room 8)

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|------------|---------|--|
| 08:30 | 162 | Zhang | Jinfeng | Mechanisms of 2n Pollen Formation of Poplar in Section <i>Aigeiros</i> |
| 08:45 | 143 | Wang | Jun | Advances in Triploid Breeding of <i>Populus</i> |
| 09:00 | | | | Discussion |

10:00 Coffee

Concurrent Session 6-A: Phytoremediation

(Meeting Room 5)

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|-----|------------|-----------------|---|
| 10:30 | 35 | Laidlaw | W.S. | Phytoextraction of Cadmium, Zinc and Nickel from Contaminated Biosolids by Willows Grown Under Field Conditions |
| 10:45 | 53 | Pilipovic | Andrej | Crude Oil Phytoremediation Investigation with Different Poplar and Willow Clones |
| 11:00 | 125 | Kuzovkina | Julia | Lead Uptake and Translocation in Twelve <i>Salix</i> Taxa |
| 11:15 | 9 | Doty | Sharon Lafferty | Enhancing Phytoremediation and Plant Growth in Poplar and Willow |
| 11:30 | 139 | Chen | Shaoliang | Enhancement by Hydrogel Polymers of Salt Resistance in Poplar |
| 11:45 | | | | Discussion |

Concurrent Session 6-B: Cultivation of poplars and willows**(Meeting Room 6)**

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|------------|---------------|-------------|---|
| 10:30 | 169 | Yin | Weilun | Effects of Pruning on Growth of Poplar (<i>Populus ×euramericana</i> cv. '74/76') |
| 10:45 | 161 | Liu | Wen-guo | Study of Water Consumption Mechanisms in Poplar Plantations |
| 11:00 | 117 | Guarnaschelli | Ana Beatriz | Physiological Responses to Shade and Drought in Young Willow Plants |
| 11:15 | 177 | Jia | Liming | Productivity and Benefits of Fast-Growing and High-Yield Plantations of Poplar Under Subsurface Drip Irrigation |
| 11:30 | 197 | Picchi | Gianni | Harvesting Poplar Medium-Rotation Coppice with Light Equipment |
| 12:00 | Discussion | | | |

Concurrent Session 6-C: Nomenclature and registration**(Meeting Room 8)**

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|--|------------|----------|---|
| 10:30 | 110 | Nervo | Giuseppe | Application of SSR Markers for DNA Fingerprinting of Commercial Poplar Clones |
| 10:45 | 97 | Nervo | Giuseppe | A Dichotomous Key for Nursery Identification of the Main Poplar Clones Cultivated in Europe |
| 11:00 | 124 | Kuzovkina | Julia | The Registration of <i>Salix</i> Cultivars |
| 11:00 | Subcommittee on Nomenclature and Registration – Business Meeting | | | |

12:00 Lunch**Business meetings of Working Parties**

| | | |
|-------|--|--------------------------|
| 13:30 | Insects and other Animal Pests | (Meeting Room 12) |
| | Diseases | (Meeting Room 15) |
| | Harvesting and Utilization | (Meeting Room 3) |
| | Genetics, Conservation and Improvement | (Meeting Room 5) |
| | Production Systems | (Meeting Room 6) |
| | Environmental Applications | (Meeting Room 8) |

15:00 Coffee

| | | |
|-------|--|--------------------------|
| 15:30 | Insects and other Animal Pests | (Meeting Room 12) |
| | Diseases | (Meeting Room 15) |
| | Harvesting and Utilization | (Meeting Room 3) |
| | Genetics, Conservation and Improvement | (Meeting Room 5) |
| | Production Systems | (Meeting Room 6) |
| | Environmental Applications | (Meeting Room 8) |

Thursday 30 October

Plenary Session 4

(Ginkgo Hall)

| Time | No. | 1st Author | (name) | Title |
|-------|---------------|------------|--------|---|
| 08:30 | | Carle | Jim | Synthesis of National Reports |
| 09:00 | 13 | Biswas | Sas | Livelihood Studies of Willow-Dependent Communities of the Indian Trans-Himalayan Region With Emphasis on Sustainable Management of the Bioresource and Improved Well-Being |
| 09:15 | 164 | Garnica | Pedro | Resources and Market Balances in Poplar Plywood Manufacturing: The Outstanding European Experience of Garnica Plywood |
| 09:30 | Announcements | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vth International Poplar Symposium – Italy, 2010 (B. Stanton/S. Bisoffi) • Italian Development Project (A. Del Lungo) • Proposals for hosting the 24th Session of the IPC (India) • World Forestry Congress, Argentina, 2009 • Election results |

10:00 Coffee

Closing Plenary Session

(Ginkgo Hall)

| Time | Title |
|-------|---|
| 10:30 | Working Party Reports (1-6) |
| 11:30 | Recommendations to the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) |
| 11:45 | Closing Remarks |

12:00 Lunch

Informal Executive Committee Meeting (newly-elected members + WP Chairs/Secretaries)

| Time | Title |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 13:30 | Informal Executive Committee Meeting |

(Meeting Room 2)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

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TWENTY-THIRD SESSION
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Isebrands J.G. and Richardson J. - FAO/IPC Publication '*Poplars and Willows in the World*': A Progress Report

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Rafiei-karahroodi Zahra and Sadeghi Ibrahim - A Study of Antixenosis Resistance of 21 Poplar Clones to *Phloeomyzus passerinii* Sign in Markazi Province, Iran

Selek Fazil - The Importance of *Paranthrene tabaniformis* Rott. and *Cryptorhynchus lapathi* L. in Turkey

**INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION
TWENTY-THIRD SESSION**

NATIONAL REPORTS

National reports on activities related to poplar and willow cultivation, exploitation and utilization 2004-2007 were received from 22 countries (one of which being an observer country), as follows:

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| Argentina | Italy |
| Belgium | Morocco |
| Bulgaria | New Zealand |
| Canada | Republic of Korea |
| China | Romania |
| Croatia | Russian Federation* |
| Egypt | Serbia |
| France | Spain |
| Finland | Sweden |
| Germany | Turkey |
| India | United States of America |

* The Russian Federation is not a member of the IPC.

**INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION
TWENTY-THIRD SESSION**

EVALUATION OF THE SESSION

1 How would you rate the planning, announcements, pre-registration and access to information prior to the 23rd Session?

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|-----------|----|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8.19 | 9 | 10 | |
| Poor | | | | | | | → | Excellent | | |

Suggestions for improvement in the future

- A Tentative Programme with keynote speakers should be sent in advance.
- Regularly update the programme on the pre-conference website.
- Avoid sharing credit card information by e-mail due to security difficulties
- Receipts needed for on-line registration billing
- Announcements commence a year before the session
- Minimize last minute changes

2 How would you rate the programme and structure of the 23rd Session?

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|-----------|----|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8.34 | 9 | 10 | |
| Poor | | | | | | | → | Excellent | | |

Suggestions for improvement in the future

- Related topics (for example genomics, genetic diversity) should be kept together and sessions held over 1.5 days rather than in concurrent sessions.
- A session be considered to present National Reports
- Tentative Programme be sent before the session, even if presentations to change
- Set aside a specific session for poster presentations
- Provide earlier information to authors whether keynote, oral or poster presentations
- Talks in Plenary session should be in English

3 How would you rate the Poster presentation arrangements at the 23rd Session?

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|-----------|----|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7.10 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| Poor | | | | | | | → | Excellent | | |

Suggestions for improvement in the future

- Need more poster space, visibility and time
- Each poster, one panel at eye-height
- Separate session with presenters to stand with posters.
- Consider a poster award for students

4 How would you rate the administrative and logistical support by the HOST Secretariat at the 23rd Session?

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|-----------|----|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8.60 | 9 | 10 | |
| Poor | | | | | | | → | Excellent | | |

Suggestions for improvement in the future

- Excellent, impressive and cordial provision of support
- Improve language skills to better serve needs/wishes of participants

5 How would you rate the work of the HOST volunteers at the 23rd Session (registration, powerpoint support, help services etc)?

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8.73 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|----|

Poor → Excellent

Suggestions for improvement in the future

- Amazed at how they anticipated and met needs. Wonderful!
- Consideration of wider language skills

6 How would you rate the administrative and logistical support by the FAO Secretariat?

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8.70 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|----|

Poor → Excellent

Suggestions for improvement in the future

- Always helpful and tireless

7 How would you rate the technical inputs and documents prepared by FAO to the 23rd Session (Book of Abstracts, Synthesis of Country Reports, Working Papers, Programme, Website)?

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8.70 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|----|

Poor → Excellent

Suggestions for improvement in the future

- Include the programme in the Book of Abstracts
- Distribute programme earlier
- Present Book of Abstracts in A-5 format

8 How would you rate the performance of the interpreter services?

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8.27 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|----|

Poor → Excellent

Suggestions for improvement in the future

- Provide interpreters for the host country language
- French interpretation does not seem necessary
- Use sound-proof booths (sound from interpreters' booths was loud and disruptive)

9 How would you rate the conference facilities and services?

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8.56 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|----|

Poor → Excellent

Suggestions for improvement in the future

- Excellent hotel manager, very good facilities but some language difficulties
- Improved access to transport and internet facilities
- More computers with Internet would have been useful near the Conference Hall
- Air quality and temperatures not ideal in meeting rooms, particularly meeting room 5

10 How would you rate the hotel accommodation, meals and services?

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|-----------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8.34 | 9 | 10 | |
| Poor | | | | | | | | → | Excellent | |

Suggestions for improvement in the future

- Very comfortable facilities and good meals and housekeeping services
- Improve information regarding different room types and costs prior to and at registration
- Diversify meal options to include non-Chinese cuisine (including consideration of vegetarian food)

11 Any other comments to improve IPC Sessions in the future?

- Provide more detail on name tags
- Need for a new working group for genomics and biotechnology if talks are kept in separate sessions. The Genetics Working Group reports are prepared and led only by breeders – or rename Genetics Working Group as Genetics and Genomics Working Group. Otherwise genomics researchers will lose interest in participating and the IPC will eventually be viewed by them as out-of-date.
- Provide pre- and post-study tour documents to all participants so as to get best information about host country's forest area/coverage
- People at registration desk and during study tours should understand IPC languages.
- Video clips could be used during general meals and at front office
- Exempt spouses from registration fee
- Improve ability of chairs of different parallel sessions to keep the time for larger discussion and induce/promote/activate discussions
- Encourage all member countries to provide timely inputs
- Include informal contact points in information flow (e-mail, etc.)
- Some National Poplar Commissions are inactive and country progress reports and facts and figures can be misleading