

REPORT

4 October 2021

**Report of the 51st
Meeting of the
Executive Committee
of the International
Commission on
Poplars and Other
Fast-Growing Trees
Sustaining People and
the Environment (IPC)**

**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON POPLARS AND
OTHER FAST-GROWING TREES SUSTAINING PEOPLE
AND THE ENVIRONMENT (IPC)**

Report of the 51st Meeting of its Executive Committee

4 October 2021

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, October 2021

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

All rights reserved. Reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product for educational or other non-commercial purposes are authorized without any prior written permission from the copyright holders provided the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction of material in this information product for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without written permission of the copyright holders. Applications for such permission should be addressed to the Chief, Publishing Support Branch, Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Education, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy, or by e-mail to copyright@fao.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORT OF THE 51ST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON POPLARS AND OTHER FAST-GROWING TREES SUSTAINING PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	2
OPENING OF THE MEETING	2
ITEM 1: UPDATES FROM THE SECRETARIAT AND CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR	2
ITEM 2: COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORT: KEY FINDINGS.....	2
ITEM 3: WORKING PARTY REPORTS	2
ITEM 4: IPC VISION AND STRATEGY.....	3
ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS.....	3
CLOSURE OF THE MEETING AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING	3
ANNEX I.....	4
AGENDA OF THE 51ST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.....	4
ANNEX II.....	I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.....	I
<i>Executive Committee</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>Working Party Members</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>FAO Secretariat</i>	<i>iii</i>
ANNEX III	I
MEETING DOCUMENTS	I

REPORT OF THE 51st MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON POPLARS AND OTHER FAST-GROWING TREES SUSTAINING PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Opening of the meeting

1. The 51st meeting of the IPC Executive Committee (the Committee) was held on 4 October 2021 in a virtual setting.
2. The Chairperson, Martin Weih, welcomed members to the meeting, noting the condensed time schedule of the meeting due to the virtual setting and highlighting the importance of the meeting for the future of the IPC, given that the 26th Quadrennial Session of the IPC is to take place in the coming days.
3. The provisional agenda was adopted as presented.

Item 1: Updates from the Secretariat and Chair/Vice-Chair

4. The Committee noted the progress of work reported by the Secretariat. Based on this report, the Committee:
 - a. acknowledged the work that has been undertaken in the development of the new IPC vision and strategy since the reform of the Convention in 2019;
 - b. underscored the need for the IPC to harmonize its work on common objectives and take advantage of its new broader technical and geographic diversity;
 - c. suggested that, going forward, the IPC be more precise in communicating how the new fast-growing species added to its scope can help to address today's current challenges;
 - d. highlighted the need to recruit new Member Countries from diverse geographies, given the expansion of its mandate.

Item 2: Country Progress Report: Key Findings

5. The Committee took note of the process of compiling and finalizing the Synthesis of Country Reports and:
 - a. thanked those countries that had submitted a progress report despite the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - b. requested that the Secretariat give to those Member Countries that had reported an opportunity to offer their feedback on the process of reporting;
 - c. requested the Secretariat to review the reporting template and create an improved template to present to the next Executive Committee Meeting in 2022, to be used for the next reporting period.

Item 3: Working Party Reports

6. The Committee:
 - a. welcomed the reports of the Working Parties and thanked the Working Party Chairs and Officers for their hard work;
 - b. emphasized the importance and relevance of the technical Working Parties, especially since their restructuring, for the IPC and its stakeholders, and in connection with global efforts towards more sustainable agriculture and forestry systems;

- c. noted the challenges in establishing an engaged membership base within each Working Party;
- d. highlighted the desirability to attract more young scientists to the Working Parties and the need to better communicate the work of the Working Parties and the relevance of the issues they are working on;
- e. underscored the need to focus work on underutilized fast-growing species that offer similar ecosystems and livelihood services than those of poplars and willows.

Item 4: IPC Vision and Strategy

- 7. The Committee welcomed the presentation of the proposed IPC Strategy, which is intended to be adopted by Members during the 26th Session, and;
 - a. expressed the concern that the IPC is implementing a new expanded strategy at a time when funds are limited;
 - b. highlighted the importance of the role of the IPC Secretariat in the implementation of the new strategy;
 - c. noted that the implementation of the strategy and the establishment of priority actions will be the principal challenges facing the future of IPC's work;
 - d. underscored the need to ensure that the Working Parties are at the core of the implementation of the strategy, as well as the National Commissions;
 - e. Acknowledged that the expanded mandate of IPC and the stronger alignment with the global development agenda offer new partnership and funding opportunities.

Item 7: Any Other Business

- 8. The Committee:
 - a. considered the proposal to hold the 27th Session of the IPC in 2024;
 - b. Took note of the suggestion to organise the 27th Session at FAO Headquarters with Italy and France acting as co-hosts, as was intended for the 26th Session;
 - c. acknowledged that it would be fruitful to hold the next meeting of the Executive Committee in 2022 in person, conditions permitting.
 - d. took note of the update provided by the Secretariat on the voting procedures for the election of next Executive Committee, which will take place at FAO Headquarters during the 26th Session of the IPC on Friday 8 October.

Closure of the Meeting and Date of Next Meeting

- 9. The next meeting of the IPC Executive Committee was agreed to be held in October 2022, at which point a new Executive Committee would be in place.
- 10. The meeting was closed at 15:30 hrs.

Annex I

Agenda of the 51st Meeting of the Executive Committee

Provisional Agenda 4 October 2021, 12:00-15:00, Rome time Virtual meeting

ITEMS AND SCHEDULE:

12:00-12:45

1. Updates from the Secretariat and Chair/Vice-chair (15 minutes)
2. Draft country progress reports: key findings (30 minutes)

13:00-14:00

3. Working Party Reports (10 minutes remarks from each chairperson, 60 minutes total)

14:15-15:00

4. IPC Strategy and its implementation (30 minutes)
5. Any other business (15 minutes)

LOGISTICS:

- Meeting to held by video link (Zoom), arranged by the Secretariat, Chaired by the Chair of the Executive Committee
- The meeting documents for agenda items 2, 3 and 4 are posted on the IPC Website. Each member is invited to review them and provide comments and questions during the meeting.

Annex II

List of Participants

Executive Committee

Mme Catherine BASTIEN
Institut national de la recherche
agronomique (INRA)
Unité d'amélioration génétique et
physiologie des arbres forestiers
2163 avenue de la Pomme de Pin
CS40001 Ardon
F45075 Orléans Cedex
FRANCE
Tel.: (33-2) 38417829
Fax: (33-2) 38417879
Catherine.bastien@orleans.inra.fr

Mr Stefano BISOFFI
Poplars and willows expert
stefano@bisoffi.it

Mr Esteban BORODOWSKI
Subsecretaría de Desarrollo Foresto
Industrial
Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y
Pesca
Ministerio de Agroindustria
Av. Paseo Colón 982, Anexo Jardín,
Oficina 114
Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires
(C1063ACW)
ARGENTINA
Tel: +54-11 4363-6175
Cel: +54-911 5772-1242
E-mail: eborod@magyp.gob.ar
borodows@gmail.com

Mr Emile S. GARDINER
Center for Bottomland Hardwoods
Research
Southern Research Station
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 227
Stoneville, Mississippi 38756
USA
Tel.: (+1-662) 6863184
egardiner@fs.fed.us

Mr Mirko LIESEBACH
Thünen Institute of Forest Genetics
Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas,
Forestry and Fisheries
Sieker Landstrasse 2
22927 Grosshansdorf
GERMANY
Tel.: (49-4102) 696156
mirko.liesebach@thuenen.de

Mr Judson G. ISEBRANDS
Environmental Forestry Consultants, LLC
P.O. Box 54
New London, Wisconsin 54961
Tel: (+1-920) 5311007
E-mail: efcllc@athenet.net

Mr Meng-Zhu LU
Professor, Research Institute of Forestry
Chinese Academy of Forestry
Wan Shou Shan
Beijing 100091
Tel: (86-10) 62889606
Fax: (86-10) 62872015
E-mail: lumz.caf.ac.cn

Mr Ian McIVOR
Plant and Food Research
Private Bag 11600
Palmerston North 4442
NEW ZEALAND
Tel: (64-6) 9537673
ian.mcivor@plantandfood.co.nz

Mr Giuseppe NERVO

CREA, Unità di Ricerca per le Produzioni
Legnose Fuori Foreste
Strada Frassineto 35
15033 Casale Monferrato (AL)
ITALY
Tel: (39-0142) 330900
giuseppe.nervo@crea.gov.it

**Ms Barbara THOMAS (Vice-
Chairperson)**

Associate Professor, University of Alberta
NSERC/Industry Research Chair in Tree
Improvement
442 Earth Sciences Building
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E3
CANADA
Tel.: (1-780) 492-8016
bthomas@ualberta.ca

Mr Joris VAN ACKER

Laboratory of Wood Technology
Ghent University
Coupure Links 653
B-9000 Ghent
BELGIUM
Tel.: (32-9)2646233
Joris.VanAcker@UGent.be

(Chair) Mr Martin Heinrich WEIH

Professor
Swedish University of Agricultural
Sciences (SLU)
Department of Crop Production Ecology
P.O. Box 7043
SE-750 07 Uppsala
SWEDEN
Tel: (+46-18) 672543
Martin.Weih@slu.se

Working Party Members

Ms Teresa CERRILLO

Instituto Nacional de Tecnología
Agropecuaria (INTA)
EEA Delta del Paraná
Campana
ARGENTINA
Tel: (54-11) 47494609
E-mail: tcerrillo@gmail.com

Ms Julia KUZOVKINA

University of Connecticut
USA
Storrs-Mansfield, CT 06269
Tel: (1-860) 486-3438
jkuzovkina@uconn.edu

Mauritz RAMSTEDT

Swedish University of Agriculture
Forest Mycology and Pathology
Box 7026
SE-750 07 Uppsala
Sweden
Tel: (46-0) 704943010
mauritz.ramstedt@mail.com

Mr Ron ZALESNY

US Forest Service
Northern Research Station
5985 Highway K
Rhineland
Wisconsin, USA
Tel: (+1) 715-362-1132
Email: rzalesny@fs.fed.us

FAO Secretariat

Ms Arianna EVANS

Statutory Body Meetings Assistant
Food and Agriculture Organization
arianna.evans@fao.org

Mr Thomas HOFER

IPC Secretary *ad interim*
Team Leader, Forest Resources
Management
Food and Agriculture Organization
thomas.hofer@fao.org

Ms Roberta PIFERI

Team Assistant, Forest Resources
Management
Food and Agriculture Organization
roberta.piferi@fao.org

Ms Priya PAJEL

Intern, Forest Resources Management
Food and Agriculture Organization
priya.pajel@fao.org

Mr Didier PARADISI

Team Assistant, Forest Resources
Management
Food and Agriculture Organization
didier.paradisi@fao.org

Ms Dominique ROZAS

Liaison and Meetings Officer
Food and Agriculture Organization
dominique.rozas@fao.org

Annex III

Meeting Documents

IPC Strategy

Synthesis of Country Progress Reports

Working Party Reports