The conference will be of interest to scientists and forest managers alike. All those interested are invited to submit, **no later than 15 January 2002**, a preliminary registration and paper/poster abstract within the general objective of the conference. Abstracts (≤ 200 words) should contain the names of authors with titles, addresses and up to six key words. Notification of abstract acceptance and more detailed information will be sent to authors by the end of February 2002. Submission of full manuscripts is due at the conference. Publication of conference proceedings is being negotiated.

Each session will consist of two invited keynote presentations (names to be announced soon) and voluntary presentations. Posters are also welcome.

A more detailed program will be circulated after selection of abstracts.

Preliminary registration and abstract to be submitted before 15 January 2002 to:

CEF – Instituto Superior de Agronomia
Tapada da Ajuda, 1349- 017 Lisboa, Portugal
email: gimref@isa.utl.pt
fax: (351) 21 3645000
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International Conference: 2nd call for abstracts

INCORPORATING FOREST GROWTH MODELS INTO DECISION-SUPPORT TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

organised by

European Institute of Cultivated Forests (EFI Regional Project Centre)

and

CEF/ISA, Technical University of Lisbon

with the support of

EUROSILVASUR, IUFRO division 4.0

6-8 June 2002 at Lisboa (Portugal)

BACKGROUND

The European Institute for Cultivated Forests (IEFC, an EFI Regional Project Centre for South-West European Forests) and CEF/ISA, Technical University of Lisbon, are organising a scientific conference to promote exchanges between scientists and foresters on the use of forest growth models (both empirical, process-based or hybridisation's between them) within decision-support tools for sustainable forest management. The meeting is a sequel to the IEFC conference *Models for the sustainable management of temperate plantation forests*, held at INRA Bordeaux (France), 7-9 September 2000 (EFI Proceedings 41, in press).

Sustainable forest management seeks to ensure that forest ecosystem behaviour is environmentally and socio-economically acceptable, over the long term in particular. The Bordeaux conference presented several examples of models – ranging from process-based ecosystem models to empirical, mensuration-based, growth and yield models to decision-support tools – and their application to sustainable forest management problems.

Two main challenges were identified: a scientific one and a practical one. The scientific challenge lies in understanding the complex interplay between the many plant and soil processes involved. The practical challenge lies in transferring the information from detailed, process-based models to empirical growth and yield models and decision-support tools that use only readily available input data.

The objective of the Lisbon conference is to follow up the progress that modellers have made in addressing both challenges, with particular emphasis on the second of these: bridging the gap between research models and practical decision-support tools.

The conference will consist of two days of indoor sessions including invited key-note papers, voluntary papers and poster presentations, and a one-day field trip to plantation forests in Portugal.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

The primary target level for decision-making in forest management is the management area – a forest project impact area – which is subdivided, according to ecological and productive criteria, into several forest stands. The objective of forest management models is to help the users to select the set of management alternatives - schedules of activities over the planning horizon - to be applied to each stand that optimise a set of pre-defined goals and criteria.

The workshop is organised into different sessions in a way to cover the different elements of a decision-support system, from the characterisation of the management area through appropriate forest inventory to the implementation of forest resources management information systems, prediction of forest development under alternative forest management prescriptions and the optimisation algorithms themselves. The last session will be dedicated to the presentation of case studies.

Thursday, June 6

Session 1 (morning)	Forest Inventory and Management Information Systems at management area level
Session 2 (afternoon)	Model and model applications to sustainable forest management

Friday, June 7

Session 3 (morning)	Decision support systems for sustainable forest management
Session 4 (afternoon)	Decision support systems for sustainable forest management: case studies

Saturday, June 8 Field excursion