

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL FORESTERS, INC.
1500 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Apt. 841
Washington, D.C. 20005

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A Tropical Forestry Congress? For almost 50 years, tropical foresters have urged the desirability of periodic conferences where men from the tropics of both hemispheres might find a common meeting-ground.

World Forestry Congress I, in 1926, although it dealt predominantly with temperate zone forestry, gave impetus to this proposal and ten years later, World Congress II recommended that greater stress be laid on tropical forestry problems and techniques. World Forestry Congress III was even more specific and resolved "that a special conference of those interested and engaged in tropical forestry be called by FAO as soon as convenient". Five years later, the resolution was partially implemented when Congress IV, held in India, gave for the first time - and, incidentally, the last - adequate coverage to an examination of tropical problems, policies and programs, on a world basis.

The V Congress, held in the USA, was a distinct disappointment from the standpoint of tropical forestry. It assigned two half-days of its entire agenda to tropical forestry problems, and the coming Forestry Congress in Madrid will probably do the same.

So, with the exception of India, tropical forestry has been given scant attention at World Congresses, in spite of the growing importance of its products; in spite of progress made in new techniques; and in spite of the increasing numbers of professional men engaged.

The resultant and increasing dissatisfaction of tropical foresters is not surprising. They realize, of course, the dilemma created by ever-expanding world congresses. They realize that indifference to tropical problems is almost inevitable when congresses are held in the Temperate Zone and where the framers of the agenda are besieged with demands for activities of more immediate concern than the Tropics. They realize all this, and they wonder if the day has not come to definitely plan for a Tropical Forestry Congress.

Two recent factors seem to make such a proposal timely. One is the growing unwieldy character of world congresses, both in terms of number of participants and of agenda. World Congresses themselves might benefit if tropical forestry were to be made the subject of a separate congress.

The second factor lies in the recent creation of a Tropical Forestry Committee within FAO. This could provide machinery under FAO sponsorship to facilitate any nations wishing to host a Tropical Congress, and to assist in its preparation. -- T.G.

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Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics:

A decisive step that promises to hold major importance for tropical forestry was taken by FAO in creating a Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics.

At the meeting of the FAO Technical Forestry Committee in November, vigorous support was given to a proposal by Liberia and Venezuela to form a committee that would provide continuing attention, on a world basis, to tropical problems, programs, and progress.

The Technical Forestry Committee, in endorsing this proposal, recommended that the new committee assume responsibility for advising FAO concerning action necessary to insure the productivity and usefulness of the tropical forests of the world.

The creation of this committee has been approved by the FAO Conference, with the understanding that the terms of reference shall be "To study technical, economic and social problems relating to the development of tropical forests - particularly in developing countries - having regard to production, utilization and conversion aspects, as well as to the marketing of forest products". FAO will now select member or associate member nations, inviting them to appoint representatives for the committee on the basis of their technical competence. Committee membership will be not less than 15 nor more than 30.

For their initiative in proposing the creation of this Committee, tropical foresters owe a debt of gratitude to the Governments of Liberia and Venezuela. By implementing this Committee, FAO is affording tropical foresters the long-sought opportunity to formulate and present their concepts of what is urgently needed in protecting and developing the forests of the tropics from a world viewpoint. It becomes now a definite responsibility of tropical nations to give this Committee full and sustaining support.

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Philippine Association for Permanent Forests, Inc.:

This organization has issued an attractive and informative booklet describing its objectives and activities. An organization composed of forest industries, it is non-profit, non-political, and dedicated to conserving the forests of its members. Among its major aims are to urge the Philippine Government to designate specific areas as permanent forests and to undertake, through a contract with Government, the planting of trees in open forest lands. During the past year, the Association has formed two research panels - one made up of foresters from member companies and the other a panel of forest agencies. Among its officers and board of directors are the following ISTF members: Florencio Tamesis and Eugenio de la Cruz.

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Sixth World Forestry Congress: As time draws nearer to the opening of the Sixth World Forestry Congress in Madrid, preparations by the Spanish Organizing Committee go steadily forward. The Committee has enlisted the cooperation of experienced individuals who have been invited to prepare background documentation. Further contributions are invited from foresters and industry - particularly from Latin America, Asia and Africa. In collaboration with FAO, an international festival of forestry films will be held, and a world exhibition of forestry equipment. Seven study tours have been arranged before and after the Congress.

Hotel facilities are likely to be taxed to the utmost during the Congress, and ISTF members are urged to send in their applications, together with the registration fee, as soon as possible. The necessary forms - if not available from the National Committees - may be obtained by writing Sr. D. Manuel Prats Zapirain, Secretario General del Sexto Congreso Forestal Mundial, Ministerio de Agricultura, Paseo Infanta Isabel 1, Madrid 7, Spain.

At the meeting of the FAO Forestry Committee in November, a statement was made by the Director General of Forests of Spain, who renewed to all forest authorities and forest associations of FAO member countries, the invitation of the Spanish Government to participate.

It was the feeling of the Committee that the Congress program had been well designed to elicit useful discussion on present world problems in forest and forest-industry development and on how to adapt forest policies to present circumstances and thinking.

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Recommendations of the Forestry Committee of FAO:

At its meeting in Rome in November, the Technical Committee on Forestry and Forest Products made a number of recommendations to FAO's Forestry Division. Among those of direct interest to tropical foresters are the following:

The Committee strongly endorsed the proposed expansion of effort toward the establishment of an international forest tree introduction program, the long-term aim of which should be to strengthen or create regional seed units to identify, preserve, and make readily available superior germ plasm of forest trees of economic importance.

The Committee recommended that governments assure a good attendance at the 1967 Symposium on Man-made Forest suggested to be held in Australia in conjunction with a Eucalyptus Study Tour to replace a Third World Eucalyptus Conference, with tours to North Australia, New Guinea and New Zealand.

The Committee emphasized that the possibilities of man-made forests must not blind foresters to the need for improved silviculture and management of natural

forests. Each country has to create its own balance between natural forests and plantation.

The Committee asked the Director-General to note that it was often very difficult for developing countries to finance attendance of their representatives at meetings specially organized by FAO for their benefit, and would welcome a solution to this problem.

The Committee regretted the failure to provide outposted forestry officers for the Caribbean and eastern Latin American sub-regions respectively; and staff for a regional advisory group on forest industries for the Asia-Pacific region with ECAFE.

The Committee recommended to the attention of the Interamerican Committee for Agricultural Development (C.I.D.A.) that its current investigation on agricultural training facilities and needs in Latin America include intermediate-level forestry schools.

The Committee recommended that priority should be accorded to an expanded worldwide program for the development of tropical forests, which should encompass not only production but also extraction, utilization and marketing; the program should also emphasize the services other than timber production performed by forests in the tropics.

The Committee finally recommended:
a substantial strengthening of FAO's capacity to assist developing countries through forest industry survey missions and forest industry development planning services.

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Recent Contributions to Tropical Literature:

THE TROPICS, A MISUNDERSTOOD ECOSYSTEM, by ISTF member L. R. Holdridge: A paper reflecting the author's long and distinguished career, presented at the last annual meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF AFRICA, by ISTF member Professor G. S. Puri: A careful, well-documented study prepared for a program of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

MENSAGENS DA MATA, by ISTF member Douglas Knudson: Short, timely notes on forests and forest conditions in Brazil.

DASONOMIA INTERAMERICANA, published by the Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Sciences, at Turrialba, Costa Rica, is trimestral and devoted to papers of particular interest to Middle and South America. The yearly subscription rate is \$2.00.

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