

The International Poplar Commission and its reform process



Promotion of the International Poplar Commission (IPC)
Side Event at World Forest Week
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Poplars & willows: 95 million ha in boreal & temperate regions





International Poplar Commission (IPC)

- Oldest statutory body of FAO, established in 1947 by 6 European countries
- 37 member countries, more than half of which are developing economies
- FAO hosts IPC Secretariat
- Mandate: to promote the cultivation, conservation and utilization of poplars and willows
- Goal: to enhance well-being and rural livelihoods in developing countries through the transfer of knowledge and technology



Key outputs & achievements of IPC

- Information network
- Transfer of material, knowledge, technology
- Website and sub-portals
- Publications
- Congresses/study tours/working party meetings
- Joint research programs
- International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for *Populus* and *Salix*
- Pilot afforestation projects in North-East China, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey



Main challenges IPC is facing

- Strong interest by poplar/willow specialists, but difficult to attract interest of other stakeholders
- Country membership stagnant since 2000
- IPC and NPC's lack resources and face challenges in meeting their obligations
- Link with FAO mandate (sustainable livelihoods/rural development/food security) not always apparent
- Working parties need to be more integrated into multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral environmental and development issues
- Narrow geographic and technical focus calls for expansion of the thematic scope

Formal Recommendations

COFO 21, Sept 2012

IPC-Executive Committee, Nov 2012



The proposed reform

- Expansion of the thematic scope
- Revised title of the IPC-Convention
- Thematic restructuring of the working parties
- Strengthening national poplar commissions
- Increased funding of IPC-Secretariat



Thank you for your attention !



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