



Poplar in the world

The role of the International Poplar Commission (IPC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO)

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Planted forests in the world



Planted Forests Assessment (2005)

Total Planted Forest:	271 million ha
Total Forests	3,952 million ha
Forest cover	7%
Land cover	~2%
Potential Industrial wood prod.	~65%
<u>Carbon Sequestration</u>	1.4 G.tonnes/yr
<u>Wood products C Storage</u> (from planted forests)	0.5 G.tonnes/yr
<u>Note: Deforestation (all forests)</u>	1.6 giga tonnes/year

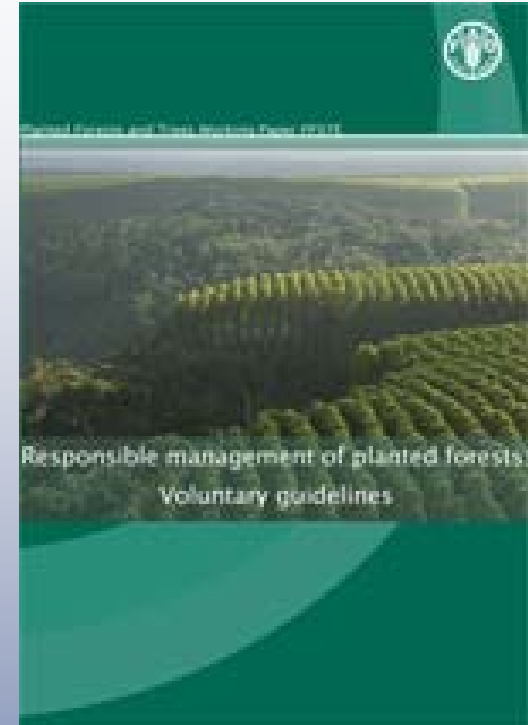




Planted Forests: products and services

The **FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Management of Planted Forests** acknowledge the multiples roles of forest plantations in:

- Production services (wood production, bio-energy, fibres)
- Environmental services (soil protection, desertification control)





Inventory of poplar and willow area in the world (IPC 23rd Session Beijing 2008)

Forests & Trees	Poplar	Willow	Total
Natural Forest	70.578	416	70.993
Planted Forest	5.254	138	5.392
Agroforestry/TOFs	2.626	8	2.636
Total	78.458	562	79.020



Poplar plantation in the world cover almost **8 million ha** or **3% of total planted forest area**



Poplar characteristics and use

- **Fast growing species**
- **Wood production: boards, fibers, bio-fuels**
- **Environmental protection: river banks and sandy soils**
- **Soil protection and conservation**
- **Desertification control**
- **Afforestation in salty soils (white poplar)**
- **Phyto-remediation**
- **Contribution to genetic improvement on forest trees**





Poplar in developing countries

Poplar, also known as the “tree of bread” is particularly relevant in agro-forestry systems for rural populations in many developing countries as:

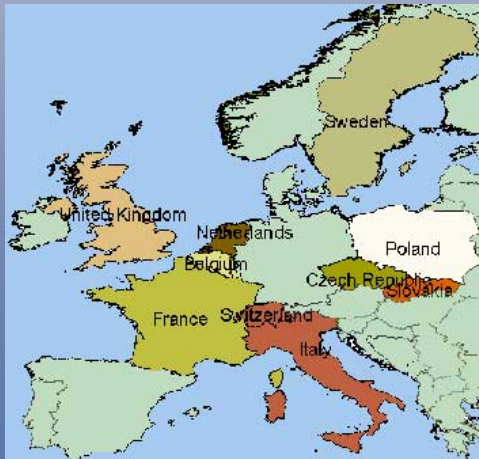
- provides good quality wood
- can be planted together with other agronomic cultures
- provides shadows for poultries and cattle
- provides green branches and leaves for cattle





International Poplar Commission (IPC)

- On mandate of 9 European member countries, FAO established in 1947 the International Poplar Commission (IPC)
- FAO hosts the technical secretariat of IPC
- Today IPC accounts 37 member countries spread in all the temperate zones of the world
- The main mandate of IPC is to strengthen synergies between develop and developing countries and enhance the transferring of technical and scientific information among poplar stakeholders
- IPC works through FAO, under the United Nations mandate, to improve the people livelihoods especially in developing countries by transferring knowledge and technology from countries with long tradition of poplar culture to developing countries
- After more than 60 years of activity, IPC is still working in line with both the mission of United Nation and with the United Nation Millennium Development Goals developed by United Nation at the beginning of years two thousands





IPC structure and formal activities

- IPC Executive committee is elected by representatives of member countries every 4 years
- IPC Chair is elected by Executive Committee members. Mr Stefano Bisoffi, from Italy, is the actual Chair. His mandate will end in 2012
- IPC Executive Committee meets every two years
- IPC organises a scientific and technical meeting every four years in one of the member countries. All member countries and poplar stakeholders are invited to attend
- Based upon indication and needs of member countries, IPC promotes forestry policies on poplar culture
- IPC is the mean of United Nations to promote poplar and willow culture





Council

49 Member countries

Conference

191 Member countries + EU

FAO

Committee on Forestry

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sound
- Well targeted
- Specific
- Achievable

FUNCTIONS

- ✓ Study scientific, technical, social and economic aspects of poplar & willow cultivation
- ✓ Promote exchange of ideas and material among research workers, producers & users
- ✓ Arrange joint research programmes
- ✓ Conduct congresses and study tours
- ✓ Report and make recommendations to the FAO Conference
- ✓ Make recommendations to NPCs and Governments through FAO

International Poplar Commission

37 Member countries

Executive Committee

12 (+5) members

Genetics,
Conservation and
Improvement

Diseases

Insects and other
animal pests

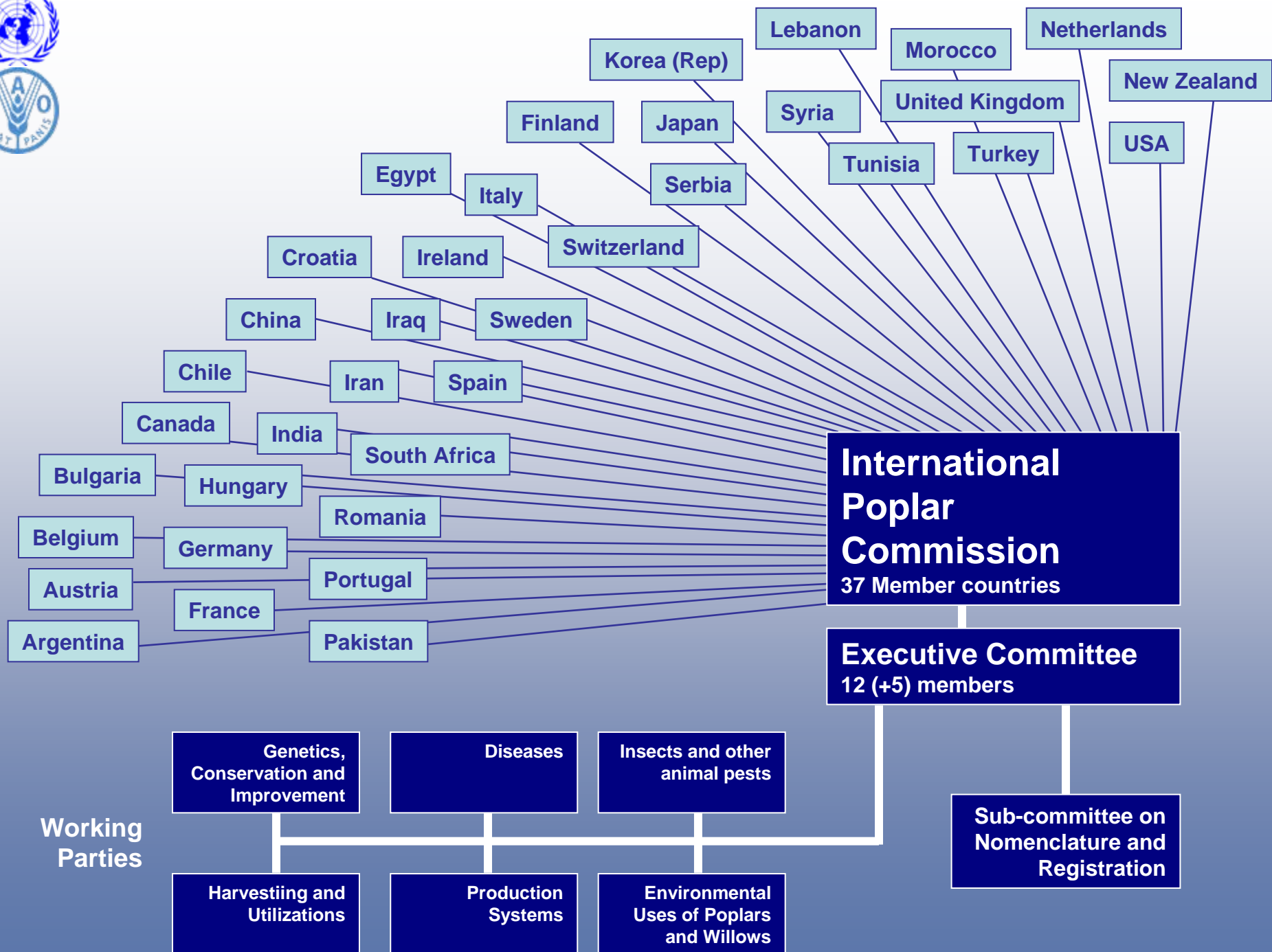
Harvesting and
Utilizations

Production
Systems

Environmental
Uses of Poplars
and Willows

Working
Parties

Sub-committee on
Nomenclature and
Registration





National Poplar Commissions

Every IPC member country is connected to IPC through a National Poplar Commission (NPC)

NPCs are composed by Institutions, Research Bodies, Private Owners and all stakeholders related to poplars and willows

NPCs should:

- **Feel themselves parts of a network**
- **Participate in the activities of the IPC**
- **Support Executive Committee members and Working Party activities**
- **Undertake bi-lateral, multi-lateral initiatives, organize regional meetings**



Dissemination of scientific and technical information

Recent publications:

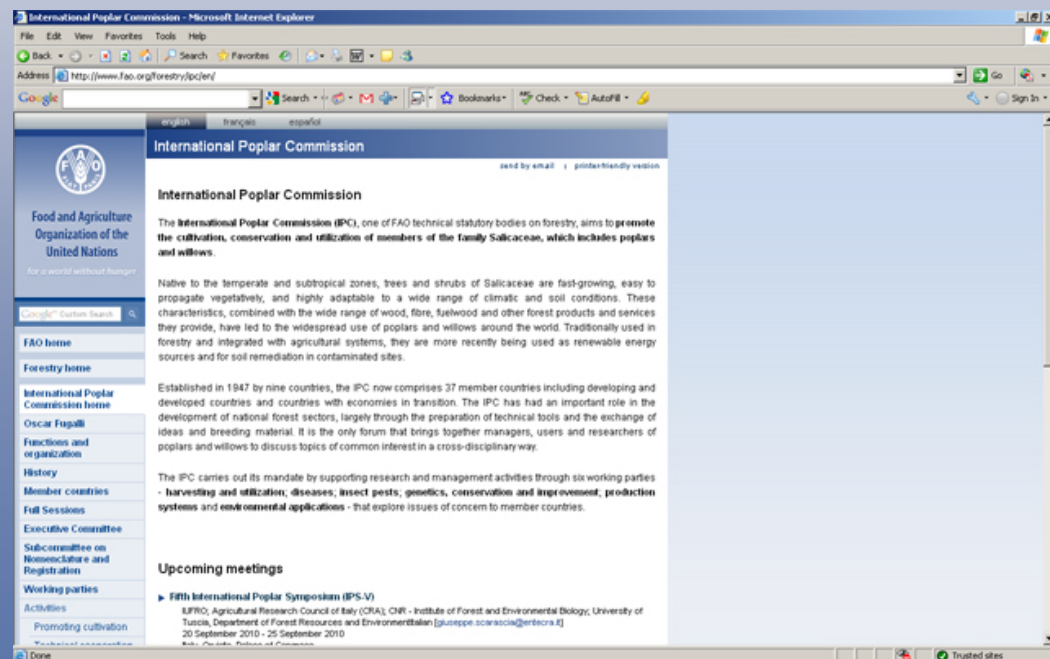
- Damaging poplar insects
http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/pdf/ipc/damaging_poplar_insects_eBook.pdf
- Field handbook on poplar harvesting
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/011/k3305e/k3305e00.htm>
- Poplars and willows (re-edition)
The first 3 chapters are available on the internet web site for download:
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/32608/en/>





An important mean to disseminate technical and scientific information on poplars and willows is the IPC website a web portal where it is possible to:

- Download all the available publications
- Find and retrieve most of the relevant meetings on poplars and willows in the world
- Find most of the IPC reports published from 1947 up to date
- Link to the National Poplar Commissions
- Find names of poplar scientists of the world





The FAO Project to support IPC (funded by Italy)

The FAO project, “Poplars and Willows for Sustainable Livelihoods and Land-use”, under the Secretariat of the International Poplar Commission, aims to improve the contribution of Poplars and Willows in meeting sustainable livelihoods and land-use in selected Mediterranean and Central Asian Countries

The project is in line with both the objectives of IPC (to study the scientific, technical, social and economic aspects of Poplar and Willow cultivation and to promote the research and the exchange of ideas among the researchers, producers and users), and with the Millennium Development Goals, (*...eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop global partnerships for development*)



Project Outputs/Activities (1)

- **Transfer of knowledge & application of scientific research in Poplars & Willows into policies, plans & management practices**
 - Update, upgrade & expand IPC website (working parties, NPCs, publications, databases etc)
 - Provide technical support to IPC Secretariat & Scientific Committee for 23rd Session of IPC (interpreters, developing country assistance, publications, translations etc)
 - Review & update web-based databases on Poplars & Willows (maintained by the Italian Poplar Research Institute)
 - Complete major publication “Poplars and Willows in the World”
 - Complete e-book “Damaging Poplar Insects – Internationally Important Species”

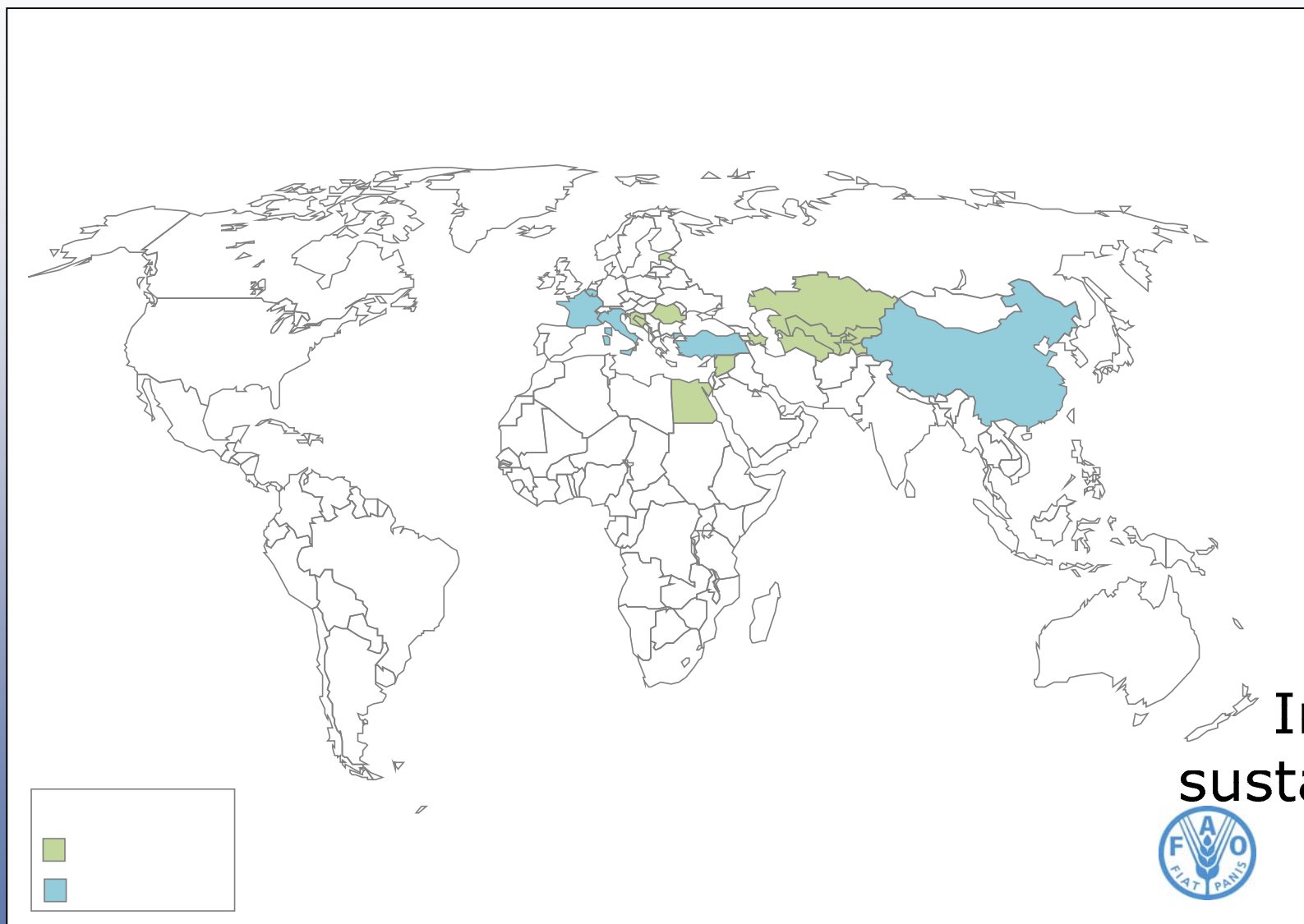


Project Outputs/Activities (2) : International Workshop

- **Organization of an International Workshop in Izmit, Turkey at the National Poplar Institute with**
 - Participation of poplar specialists from more advanced countries on Poplar and Willow culture (Italy, France, Belgium, China and Turkey)
 - Participation of poplar specialists from Mediterranean and Central Asian countries: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Romania, Egypt and Syria
- **To highlight opportunities and challenges in poplar and willow cultivation in East Mediterranean and Central Asian countries**
- **To prepare project proposals to be submitted to European Countries and to Funding Agencies (IFAD, World Bank)**



Project Outputs/Activities (2a) : Countries covered by the International Workshop





Project Outputs/Activities (3)

Collaboration and information exchange strengthened between the IPC Working Parties, National Poplar Commissions and collaborating partner bodies and agencies, including *Silva Mediterranea*, International Poplar Symposium (IPS), IEA Bioenergy Agency

- **The next IPS V will be held in Orvieto, Italy, in September 2010, hosted by the National Research Council; the University of Tuscia; the Agricultural Research Council; the Italian National Poplar Commission**
- **The IPC, through the project, participates and collaborates in the organization of IPS V**
- **The next IPC Executive Committee Meeting will be held in Orvieto during the IPS**





Participation in the IPC

FAO encourages participation with NPCs, selected institutions and specialists to undertake key activities to achieve the outputs and outcome



**Thank you in anticipation for your kind participation
We look forward to working with you**

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www.fao.org/forestry/ipc**