

1st Call for the Conference:

**Coppice Forests in Europe:
Ecosystem services, protection and nature
conservation**

Hosted by COST Action FP1301 EuroCoppice
University of Antwerp, Belgium, 15-17 June, 2016



Dear Colleagues,

There are many benefits, functions and unique characteristics of coppice forests related to protection, biodiversity and conservation, but these have been largely neglected by science and society throughout the past decades. It is the aim of this conference on “*Coppice Forests in Europe: Ecosystem services and nature conservation*” to help reverse this trend and bring these aspects of coppice forest into the spotlight.

A multitude of coppice forest topics, from cultural heritage, definitions and erosion protection to harvesting techniques, tree species ecology and ownership are being explored within the COST Action FP1301 *Innovative management and multifunctional utilization of traditional coppice forests – an answer to future ecological, economic and social challenges in the European forestry sector (EuroCoppice)*. The Conference will not only build on the expertise gathered in the Action, but also reach out to and exchange with a wider audience, fostering discussions on coppice forests European-wide.

The conference will take place at the University of Antwerp from June 15th to 17th, 2016. The first day, June 15th, is reserved for *EuroCoppice* members for internal Action meetings. The conference and excursion will take place on the following two days, June 16th and 17th, and are open to interested scientists from outside the Action – an outline programme can be found below.

With this Call we invite all interested parties (from within or outside the Action) to submit an Abstract for the conference, outlining a proposed oral presentation or poster. Information and important deadline dates regarding abstract submission, as well as registration details and fees can also be found in this document.

As this is the first call for the conference, changes and updates will follow - please visit the EuroCoppice website (www.eurocoppice.uni-freiburg.de) for the most recent information. We are looking forward to diverse, interesting and thought-provoking contributions!

- The Conference Team -

Coppice Forests in Europe: Ecosystem services, protection and nature conservation

University of Antwerp, 15-17 June, 2016

Session Themes

The following are titles & example topics for the three session themes.

The examples always refer to coppice forests in relation to the given topic.

1. Coppicing and Biodiversity Conservation: promoting species diversity and endangered species in coppice forest habitat types; effects of conversion or restoration; implications for Natura 2000; surrogate silvicultural methods; impacts of harvesting; landscape aspects of species dispersal; coppices as reservoirs of genetic diversity.

2. Coppicing and Ecosystem Services (other than provisioning): preventing erosion and landslides; controlling greenhouse gas sequestration and emissions; resisting the ingress of invasive species, pests and pathogens; the importance for wildlife and pollinators; cultural heritage and historical aspects of coppice management.

3. Coppicing and Nature Conservation Policy and Legislation: legislation concerning the special treatment of coppice forests close to infrastructure; laws and regulations relating to coppice and forest protection, its soil, fauna and flora; cutting rules, girth limits, densities of standards, size of felling coupes, assessment of bio-indicators; recognised certification schemes.

Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts for an oral presentation or poster can be submitted by any interested person(s).

They should include the following:

- title,
- author(s),
- affiliation(s),
- text no longer than 250 words
- 4 - 7 keywords &
- preference as to oral presentation or poster

Abstracts should be sent to Stefan Vanbeveren (Stefan.Vanbeveren@uantwerp.be)

March 1st, 2016: Deadline for abstract submission

March 27th: Notification of abstract acceptance (oral presentation or poster).
A Scientific Committee will take the final decision on acceptance and whether a submission is to be presented orally or as a poster.

April 18th: Announcement of the Scientific Programme

Participation & Fees

→ **General information for interested individuals**

To register for the Conference & Excursion, please contact Stefan Vanbeveren by May 1st. Please also contact Peter Buckley or Stefan Vanbeveren if you have any questions regarding the Conference or Session Themes, etc.

Contact details:

Peter Buckley pb17@soas.ac.uk

Stefan Vanbeveren Stefan.Vanbeveren@uantwerp.be

Fee: For 'Early Bird' registrations, those prior to May 15 2016, the conference fee is 95 Euros, payable to the conference organisers upon online registration by bank transfer. The fee when registering after this date is 125 Euros. The fee includes: Conference and Excursion attendance, lunches (Thursday, Friday), a Conference dinner on Thursday and refreshments.

→ **For COST Action FP1301 EuroCoppice Members**

In accordance with the Action's Work and Budget Plan, a limited number of Action Members will be reimbursed for their participation. Following COST rules, the final decision regarding participant reimbursement will be taken by the Management Committee. You are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract if you are interested in participating.

Fee: 95 Euros are to be paid to conference organisers upon online registration by bank transfer. This fee includes: lunches (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday), a Conference dinner on Thursday and refreshments. Note that this fee *cannot* be claimed as an extra fee in the COST Travel Reimbursement Request (TRR).

Wednesday 15th June, 2016

**** For COST Action FP1301 Members only ****

Working Group & Management Committee Meetings

9.00-10.00 Registration for COST Members

10.00-15.50 Working Group Meetings

16.00-18.00 Management Committee Meeting

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

- open to all interested individuals: registration is required -

Wednesday 15th June, 2016 *Informal get-together*

Evening Relax and enjoy the atmosphere before the Conference kick off

Thursday 16th June, 2016 *Conference*

8.00-8.50 Registration

9.00-10.00 Keynote lectures (20-30 min presentations by invited speakers)

10.30-16.00 Parallel sessions (10 min oral presentations + 5 min discussion)

16.10-17.00 Poster sessions

Presentation & poster themes are described above ("Session Themes")

Evening Conference dinner

Friday 17th of June, 2016 *Excursion*

8.00-17.00 Field trip jointly organised with the University of Ghent (Kris Verheyen, Lander Baeten and Pieter De Frenne) and the Research Institute for Nature and Forest (Luc De Keersmaecker & Kris Vandekerckhove):

Coppice management in the broadleaved-dominated forests of Belgium



*Please visit the website for up-to-date information on the Conference,
as well as information on the COST Action 1301 EuroCoppice:*

www.eurocoppice.uni-freiburg.de
