International Poplar Commission

Agenda line item 6.3
Poplars & willows: cover close to 100 million hectares in their native range
The organization and purpose of the International Poplar Commission

Goal: to enhance well-being and rural livelihoods in developing countries through the transfer of knowledge and technology on the cultivation, conservation and utilization of poplars and willows

Founded in 1947

Committee on forestry

International poplar commission (38 member countries)

Executive committee (12+5 co-opted members)

- Taxonomy, Nomenclature and Registration;
- Domestication and Conservation of Genetic Resources;
- Plant Health, Resilience to Threats and Climate Change;
- Sustainable Livelihoods, Land-use, Products and Bioenergy;
- Environmental and Ecosystem Services;
- Policy, Communication and Outreach.

COFO 24 | 16-20 July, 2018
World Forest Week | Rome, Italy
Key outputs & achievements of IPC

- Global information network:
- Supporting research and management activities
- Supporting the development of national forest, timber and agricultural sectors
- Publications (e.g. Poplars and Willows – Trees for Society and the Environment)
- Congresses/study tours/working party meetings
- International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for *Populus* and *Salix*
Key progress from Working Parties in 2016-2018

- First draft of Checklist for Cultivars of Salix to be later submitted to the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA)
- Heavy commitment in forest genetics:
  - New clones of poplars have been released (Serbia)
  - New Salix varieties were registered and released (Sweden)
  - Molecular characterization of native species of willows (Salix humboldtiana Willd)
  - Other poplar and willow clones are in their testing phase
- Working parties are committed in a number of different research projects
- Preparation of information sheets on “green technologies” to be shared through IPC website to stakeholders
Key progress from Working Parties in 2016-2018

- Strengthening the IPC Newsletter to disseminate reports in support of WP 5, “Environmental and Ecosystem Services” and 6 “Policy, Communication and Outreach”
- Identification and technical support to the poplar/willow industries in the different IPC active countries
Main challenges of IPC

- Difficult to attract interest of other stakeholders and partners
- Country membership stagnant
- Links with FAO mandate is not always apparent
- Technical fields represented by working parties need to be more integrated into environmental and development issues
- Narrow technical focus (poplars and willows)
Progress to date in reform to meet those challenges

- Reform proposal was presented to the 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry & Executive Committee 2012
- Deliberations in 2014, 22nd Session of Committee on Forestry and at the 47th Executive Committee Meeting of the International Poplar Commission
- Revised proposal submitted to the 25th Session of IPC, in Berlin, September 2016 and unanimously accepted by all IPC participant countries voting (23 of 38)
- IPC Working Parties have been revisited by the Commission member countries to enhance the impact of IPC in meeting new challenges
The Direction of IPC Reform

- Expansion of the thematic scope to include in the portfolio other fast-growing species
Next steps

• To be completed with Martin Weih (IPC chair)
The branches of forests and trees reach out across the SDGs.