

REPORT

**Bordeaux,
France,
21 – 25 October 2024**

International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment

Twenty-seventh Session



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| First session | Paris, France | 19-26 April 1947 |
| Second session | Venice, Italy | 20-28 April 1948 |
| Third session | Brussels, Belgium | 21-28 April 1949 |
| Fourth session | Geneva, Switzerland | 18-21 April 1950 |
| Fifth session | Rome, Italy | 1-2 May 1951 |
| Sixth session | Oxford, United Kingdom | 26-28 May 1952 |
| Seventh session | Cologne, Germany | 1-4 May 1953 |
| Eighth session | Madrid, Spain | 25-28 April 1955 |
| Ninth session | Paris, France | 22-27 April 1957 |
| Tenth session | Rome, Italy | 26 Sept.-8 Oct. 1959 |
| Eleventh session | Belgrade, Yugoslavia (now Serbia) | 28 Aug.-7 Sept. 1962 |
| Twelfth session | Tehran, Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 12-22 May 1965 |
| Thirteenth session | Montreal, Canada | 23-28 September 1968 |
| Fourteenth session | Bucharest, Romania | 27 Sept.-2 Oct. 1971 |
| Fifteenth session | Rome, Italy | 1-6 December 1975 |
| Sixteenth session | Izmir, Türkiye | 4-8 November 1980 |
| Seventeenth session | Ottawa, Canada | 1-4 October 1984 |
| Eighteenth session | Beijing, China | 5-7 September 1988 |
| Nineteenth session | Zaragoza, Spain | 22-25 September 1992 |
| Twentieth session | Budapest, Hungary | 1-4 October 1996 |
| Twenty-first session | Portland, United States of America | 24-28 September 2000 |
| Twenty-second session | Santiago, Chile | 28 Nov.-9 Dec. 2004 |
| Twenty-third session | Beijing, China | 26-30 October 2008 |
| Twenty-fourth session | Dehradun, India | 29 Oct.-2 Nov. 2012 |
| Twenty-fifth session | Berlin, Germany | 12-16 September 2016 |
| Twenty-sixth session | Rome, Italy | 4-8 October 2021 |

REPORT

of the

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

of the

**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON POPLARS AND OTHER FAST-GROWING
TREES SUSTAINING PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Bordeaux, France

21–25 October 2024

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2024

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- Appendix C: Members of the IPC

I. Introduction

1. The 27th Session of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC27), under the Chairpersonship of Mr Martin Weih (Sweden), was held from 21 to 25 October 2024, in Bordeaux, France . The Commission was convened in a hybrid format.
2. In its entirety, IPC27 hosted over 200 attendees. In the formal Session (22 and 25 October) of the 38 Members Nations of the Commission, 22 Member Nations attended the Session, five Members of the Organization attended as observers and two non-governmental organizations participated as Observers. The list of participants is available in IPC/2024/INF/3.
3. The 53rd Session of the IPC Executive Committee was held on 21 October 2024.
4. Two days of Technical Sessions were held for the presentation of 133 abstracts, on 23 and 24 October 2024. The Commission's Working Party Chairpersons reported on the Session (see agenda Item 7).

II. Opening of the Session (Item 1)

5. Mr Martin Weih (Sweden), Chairperson of the Commission, opened the Session and welcomed the participants. He recalled France's involvement in the IPC since its creation. Pointing out at the expanded mandate of the IPC to all fast-growing trees and at its relevance to the Global Forest Goals and Sustainable Development Goals, he encouraged continued collaboration and knowledge-sharing during the Session and beyond.
6. Her Excellency Annie Genevard, Minister for Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forest of France, addressed the session through a video message, welcoming participants to Bordeaux and expressing her gratitude for their presence, noting the economic and environmental significance of poplars in France.
7. Mr Éric Paillassa, member of the Executive Committee of the IPC and representative of the host country, provided an overview of the current challenges and opportunities faced by the forestry sector in France and underscored the value of the IPC as a platform supporting policy dialogue, innovation, and transfer of technologies.
8. Ms Thais Linhares-Juvenal, Secretary of the IPC, FAO, highlighted the importance of the first in-person session after the IPC reform. She welcomed the participation of new countries as observers, which demonstrates the growing awareness and interest globally into the broader mandate of the Commission and the essential contributions of fast-growing trees to the UN Decades of Ecosystem Restoration and Family Farming, and to fight the climate emergency.

III. Adoption of the Agenda (Item 2)

9. The Agenda (IPC/2024/1) was adopted. The documents considered by the Committee are listed in Appendix A and B.
10. Mr Martin Weih, Chairperson of the Executive Committee was nominated Chairperson of the Session. Mr Eric Paillassa and Mr Giuseppe Nervo, members of the Executive Committee of the IPC and respectively representatives of France and Italy, were nominated Vice-Chairpersons of the Session. The Secretary of the Session was Ms Thais Linhares-Juvenal, Senior Forestry Officer and IPC Secretary, from FAO.

IV. Country Progress Reports: Key Findings (Item 3)

11. Eighteen Members of the IPC provided national progress reports and/or responded to the questionnaire provided in preparation for the 27th Session for the period 2020-2023. This information was synthesized and is available as document IPC/2024/INF/4.

12. Focus areas that emerge from these reports include especially: i) Enhancing forestry practices for environmental and economic sustainability; ii) Contributions of fast-growing trees (FGTs) to climate change mitigation, and the impacts of climate change on FGTs resilience; and iii) The economic impacts of FGTs, particularly in the bioenergy and timber sectors.

13. The Commission:

- a. endorsed the Synthesis of Country Progress Reports;
- b. stressed the importance of country progress reports to monitor the development of fast-growing trees and encourage Members to present country progress reports in preparation for the IPC Sessions;
- c. underlined that the lack of a clear definition of fast-growing trees to be covered in the report complexified the reporting process and invited the IPC to work towards the review of future reporting guidelines.

V. Summary of Working Party Reports (Item 4)

14. Representatives of the five Working Parties of the IPC, namely Mr Giuseppe Nervo, Chairperson of the Working Party on Policies and Livelihood; Mr Ron Zalesny, Chairperson of the Working Party on Environmental and Ecosystems Services; Mr Joris Van Acker, Chairperson of the Working Party on Production Systems for the Bioeconomy; Ms Barb Thomas, Co-Chairperson of the Working Party on Communication and Outreach; and Ms Julia Kuzovkina, Vice-Chairperson of the Working Party on Genetic Resources, presented a summary of their work during the previous four years, as well as their proposal for work until the next Session.

15. The Commission:

- a. noted with appreciation the Synthesis of the IPC Working Party Reports;
- b. commended the Working Parties for their actions to align the scope of their work to the IPC Strategy 2022-2032;
- c. encouraged the Working Parties to continue their efforts towards engaging with relevant partners in the domain of planted forests and agroforestry globally;
- d. requested the Working Parties to update the Commission at its next Session;
- e. requested the Executive Committee and the Secretariat to accelerate communication and outreach efforts through the IPC website and newsletter, in collaboration with the Working Parties.

VI. Updates on the implementation of the Strategy for the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC) 2022-2032 (Item 5)

16. The Secretary of the IPC presented updates on the implementation of the Strategy.

17. Her Excellency Rosalie Matondo, Minister of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo, announced the intention of the Republic of Congo, participating as an observer to the Session, to become an IPC Member Country. She further encouraged all African countries to join the Commission.

18. Building on the knowledge and experience accumulated by the IPC and the opportunities to provide robust contributions to climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals emerging from its new strategy, the Commission:

- a. encouraged the Working Party on Policies and Livelihood, in collaboration with the IPC Secretariat and the IPC Executive Committee, to implement activities focused on streamlining the linkages between IPC and Members' national bodies responsible for the IPC work to facilitate and strengthen country engagement with the IPC, and report back to the Commission on its twenty-eighth Session;
- b. requested all the IPC Working Parties to advance the incorporation of fast-growing trees beyond poplars and willows in their activities, including through reaching out to other research networks and task forces;
- c. encouraged Members to strengthen engagement with the IPC for knowledge exchange, technical collaboration and policy dialogue, and promote the IPC work in international fora;
- e. requested the IPC Executive Committee and Working Parties to conduct a consultation process to define a programme of work taking into consideration identification of priority species in accordance with country needs, and collaboration with other relevant networks;
- f. took note that the Republic of Congo manifested the intention to join the IPC and recommended African countries to consider membership and ask the Secretariat to facilitate the process for new membership.

VII. Election of the Executive Committee (Item 6)

19. Eleven nominees for the formation of the new Executive Committee of the IPC were elected by acclamation. The Members of the Executive Committee shall remain in office until the next Session of the IPC, in four years.

20. The new IPC Executive Committee Members are as follows:

1. Mr Cristian Ackerknecht Espinosa, Chile
2. Mr Esteban Borodowski, Argentina
3. Mr Éric Paillassa, France
4. Ms Flor Alvarez Taboada, Spain
5. Mr Giuseppe Nervo, Italy
6. Mr Jianjun Hu, China
7. Mr Joris Van Acker, Belgium
8. Mr Mateusz Liziniewicz, Sweden
9. Mr Mirko Liesebach, Germany
10. Mr Raju Soolanayakanahally, Canada
11. Mr Ronald S. Zalesny Jr, United States of America.

VIII. Reporting from the Technical Session (Item 7)

21. The Chairpersons of the IPC Working Parties presented the results and recommendations drawn from the Technical Sessions held on 23 and 24 October 2024.

22. The Chairperson of the Working Party on Environmental and Ecosystem Services presented the key topics discussed through 21 presentations focusing on poplars, willows and eucalyptus in ten countries. Key topics included fast-growing trees in agroforestry systems, ecosystem services and phytotechnologies, forest management policies, breeding and genomic and economic and market mechanisms. The Working Party will continue addressing these topics through identification of priority activities, including for networking, recruitment of new members and outreach.

23. The Vice-Chairperson of the Working Party on Genetic Resources presented the outcomes of 29 presentations representing 14 countries and revolving around the topics of breeding and selection, genomics, plant health and resilience to threats, and taxonomy, nomenclature and registration. He underscored emerging area, such as genomic selection, breeding for climate resilience or the integration of fast-growing trees in green technologies. Pointing at the opportunity to strengthen collaboration and engagement with a broader network on the base of a clear list of species of interest, he outlined key upcoming activities, including webinars, a comprehensive and well-maintained database of experts globally and the establishment of regional working groups.

24. The Chairperson of the Working Party on Policy and Livelihood highlighted essential take-away messages from 14 presentations and roundtables covering ten countries, and various fast-growing trees beyond poplars and willows. He reported on the impact of trade and market regulations, on large-scale afforestation and reforestation initiatives and associated incentives, on the emerging use of native fast-growing trees in tropical countries. He pointed out the role of the IPC in disseminating best practices, promoting technical exchanges and informing policymaking in new geographies.

25. The Chairperson of the Working Party on Production Systems for the Bioeconomy reported on more than 50 presentations. Key messages included the high relevance of agroforestry, Short Rotation Crops and polycyclic plantations, the centrality of remote sensing for plantation monitoring, the wide range of uses of fast-growing trees, including building with wood, the importance of resources for plywood in Europe, the re-prioritization of solid wood use and the need for integrated approach of main products and residuals for future bioproducts. Next steps include increased cross-country collaboration and networking.

26. The Co-Chairperson of the Working Party on Communication and Outreach provided an overview of the technical session which included six presentations from five countries covering poplars and willows, *Miscanthus* and *Paulownia* and other biomass crops. Emphasizing the need to increase IPC visibility to accelerate knowledge transfer, she pointed out at the variety of communication tools and approach options already mobilized by individual stakeholders and IPC Member Countries. Practical implications for the work programme of the Working Party include developing a wider range of tools to reach out to a broader stakeholder base through adapted products.

27. The Commission:

- a. requested the Executive Committee and the Working Parties to consider the conclusion and recommendations stemming from the technical sessions in preparing work plans and activities.

IX. Date and Place of Next Session (Item 8)

28. The Commission noted that the date and place of the next Session would be decided at the 54th Session of the IPC Executive Committee.

X. Any Other Business (Item 9)

29. The Commission:

- a. took note of the wealth of experiences showcased during the pre-study tour organized by France and appreciated the initiative of Italy to organize a post-study tour.
- b. took note that the IPC publication *Innovative practices in the sustainable management of fast-growing trees: lessons learnt from poplars, willow and experiences with other fast-growing trees around the world*, known as the “Green Book” is in final production and expected to be launched in 2024.

XI. Adoption of the Report (Item 10)

30. The Commission adopted the Report by consensus.

XII. Closure of the Session (Item 14)

31. The Chairperson closed the session at 16.30 (CEST) on Friday, 25 October 2024.

Appendix A**Agenda of the 27th Session of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment**

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Country Progress Reports: Key Findings
4. Summary of Working Party Reports
5. Updates on the implementation of the Strategy for the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC) 2022-2032
6. Election of the Executive Committee
7. Reporting from the Technical Sessions¹
8. Date and Place of Next Session
9. Any other business
10. Adoption of the Report
11. Closure of the Session

¹ The Technical Sessions of the IPC27 took place on 23 and 24 October 2024, at the same venue, and were open to all IPC stakeholders. For the book of abstracts, refer to the following website:
<https://www.plantedforests.org/ipc27/book-of-abstracts-ipc-2024/>

Appendix B**List of Documents**

| | |
|----------------|--|
| IPC/2024/1 | Provisional Agenda |
| IPC/2024/2 | Synthesis of Country Progress Reports |
| IPC/2024/3 | Synthesis of IPC Working Party Reports |
| IPC/2024/4 | Updates on the implementation of the Strategy for the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC) 2022-2032 |
| IPC/2024/INF/1 | Provisional Timetable |
| IPC/2024/INF/2 | List of Documents |
| IPC/2024/INF/3 | List of Participants |
| IPC/2024/INF/4 | Consolidated Country Progress Reports |
| IPC/2024/INF/5 | Consolidated IPC Working Party Reports |

Appendix C**Members of the IPC**

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|
| Argentina | India | Romania |
| Austria | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Slovenia |
| Belgium | Iraq | South Africa |
| Bulgaria | Ireland | Spain |
| Canada | Italy | Sweden |
| Chile | Japan | Switzerland |
| China | Lebanon | Syrian Arab Republic |
| Croatia | Morocco | Tunisia |
| Czechia | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Türkiye |
| Egypt | New Zealand | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |
| Finland | Pakistan | United States of America |
| France | Portugal | |
| Germany | Republic of Korea | |
| Hungary | | |