



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Forests and the Environment

*An international conference to celebrate
John Grace's contribution to science*

Supporters:

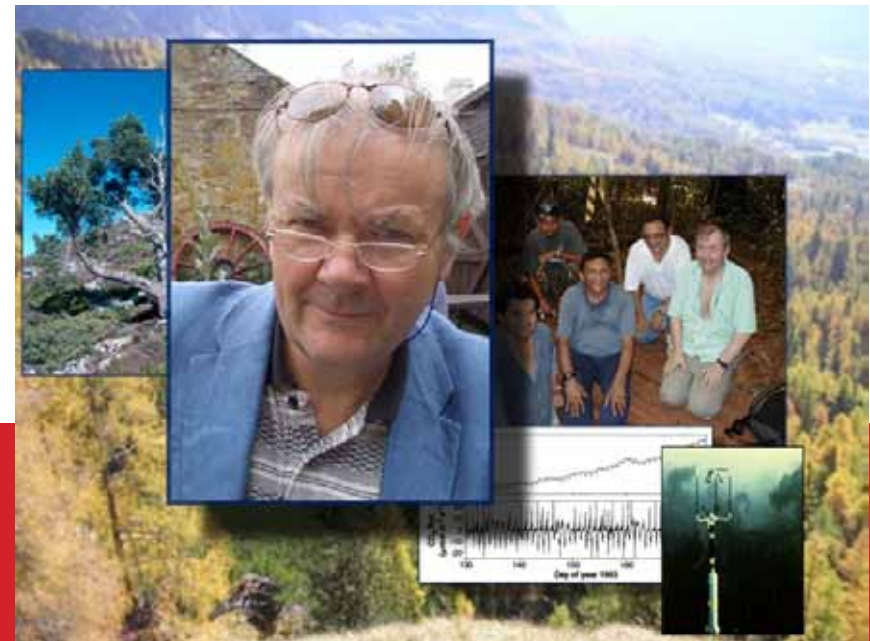


Scientific Organizing Committee

Maurizio Mencuccini, University of Edinburgh, UK
Patrick Meir, University of Edinburgh, UK
Mat Williams, University of Edinburgh, UK
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Local organizing secretariat

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18-19th April 2011

Aula Prodi - Complesso San Giovanni in Monte
University of Bologna
Piazza San Giovanni in Monte 2, Bologna, Italy

It may come as a surprise to many of you, but John Grace has formally retired in September, 2010. In keeping with character, he will continue with selected research at the University of Edinburgh, but to mark this major change in a hugely wide-ranging and productive career, we are taking the opportunity to hold a conference to mark his work and influence, and address some hot topics in forest ecology and biogeochemistry in the meanwhile.

Our views of the role of forest ecosystems in the global C cycle, of their contribution to climate change mitigation and of their susceptibility to climate extremes has profoundly changed over the last decades. Not surprisingly, several of the hottest topics in global forest ecology have seen important contributions by John Grace over the years: from the role of tropical forests and tropical deforestation, to the response of forests to elevated CO₂, and increasing water demand, to the response of high-elevation forests to increasing temperatures, to the impact of N deposition on the green-house gas balance.

As if by chance, this conference will therefore also provide a high-level venue for debating these subjects, map out our current understanding and further advance the field of forest ecology and biogeochemistry.

The conference will be held over two days in Italy, at Europe's oldest university, the University of Bologna. There will be four main themes, with three invited presentations per theme and lots of time for discussion following the presentations:

1. 'Plant water transport under climatic stress.'
2. 'The terrestrial carbon cycle and interactions with the cycles of nitrogen and water.'
3. 'Biogeographical limits and species distribution.'
4. 'Tropical forests and the environment.'

A special festschrift issue of the journal *Plant Ecology and Diversity* will be dedicated to the papers presented at the meeting.

The event will be a great opportunity to bring together a number of leading scientific communities that are linked by John's unique contribution to science.

Practical Information

Registration

On-line registration are available on the workshop webpage:

www.eng.unibo.it/Forests-Environment

On-site registration is also possible.

Please note that the cost of social dinner and field trip are not included in registration.

Conference fees

Scientist early bird (before March 31, 2011)	£ 185.00
Scientist - on site	£ 220.00
Student early bird (before March 31, 2011)	£ 125.00
Students - on site	£ 175.00
Social dinner - 18th April 2011	£ 34,00
Visit to Ravenna - 20th April 2011	£ 65,00

Accommodation

We have selected some hotels within walking distance of the conference venue and obtained special fares for meeting participants. A direct link is provided on the workshop web page, making it possible to check availability and prices and book on-line.

Conference venue

The workshop will take place in Aula Prodi, Piazza San Giovanni in Monte, in an old monastery right in the city centre of Bologna, now part of the University of Bologna.

...from the railway station

- Bus Nr. 11 - Direction 'San Lazzaro di Savena'. Bus stop: Piazza Mighetti.
- Bus Nr. 30 - Direction 'San Michele in Bosco'. Bus stop: Piazza Mighetti.

... from the airport

Aerobus - BLQ shuttle service. 20 minutes trip. Bus stop: Via Ugo Bassi

... by car

There are access restrictions to cars within the city centre, but it is possible to reach a Private Parking facility and they will inform the police about your car plate details.

Day 1: April 18, 2011

Morning Session:

Plant Water Transport under Climatic Stress

- 09:00-09:20 Welcome address
09:20-09:50 The hydraulics of trees
Maurizio Mencuccini, University of Edinburgh
09:50-10:20 Discussion
10:20-10:50 What chrono-sequences can tell us about water use by forests
Denis Loustau, INRA, Bordeaux (France)
10:50-11:20 Discussion
11:20-12:00 *Coffee break*
12:00-12:30 Tropical carbon cycle and deforestation
Yadvinder Malhi, Oxford University (UK)
12:30-13:00 Discussion
13:00-14:00 *Lunch break*

April 18 Afternoon Session:

The Terrestrial Carbon Cycle and Interactions with Nitrogen and Water Cycles

- 14:00-14:30 N deposition and the C cycle of temperate and boreal forests
Federico Magnani, University of Bologna (Italy)
14:30-15:00 Discussion
15:00-15:30 Modelling of the terrestrial C cycle
Mat Williams, University of Edinburgh (UK)
15:30-16:00 Discussion
16:00-16:30 *Coffee break*
16:30-17:00 Role of forests and forestry in terrestrial C cycle
Beverly Law, Oregon State University (USA)
17:00-17:30 Discussion
17:30-18:30 *Cocktails and Poster Session*
18:30-19:30 The changing face of the researchers: a 40-years perspective
Lectio magistralis, John Grace, University of Edinburgh (UK)
20:00 *Dinner*

Day 2: April 19, 2011

Morning Session:

Biomes and their limits

- 9:00-9:30 Carbon dynamics at tree lines
Guenter Hoch, University of Basel (Switzerland)
9:30-10:00 Discussion
10:00-10:30 Forest-savanna boundaries
Jon Lloyd, University of Leeds (UK),
University of Queensland (Australia)
10:30-11:00 Discussion
11:00-11:40 *Coffee break*
11:40-12:10 Northern limits of trees
Frank Berninger, Université du Québec à Montréal (Canada)
12:10-12:40 Discussion
12:40-14:00 *Lunch break*

Afternoon Session:

The Tropical Biome

- 14:00-14:30 Modelling drought at ecosystem and global scales
Rosie Fisher, NCAR, Boulder (USA)
14:30-15:00 Discussion
15:00-15:30 Remote sensing of biomass/deforestation/degradation
Iain Woodhouse, University of Edinburgh (UK)
15:30-16:00 Discussion
16:00-16:40 *Coffee break*
16:40-17:10 Deforestation and the social dimension
Casey Ryan, University of Edinburgh (UK)
17:10-17:40 Discussion
Evening talk
Modern carbon cycle in a geological perspective on the carbon cycle,
Dick Kroon, University of Edinburgh (UK)

