

# Forests and Landscapes

International Conference  
Besançon (France), September 16-18, 2009

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The role of forest landscape in the birth of a landscape conscience makes it a major issue of social demand. The concept of landscape is closely linked to woodlands ; through the discovery of the aesthetic and hygienist values of these so-called natural spaces, was born the idea that a harmonious visual ensemble can be perceived and protected.

Nowadays, the situation is more complex, and new social practices like peri-urban leisure activities put additional pressure on forest landscape management. This increasing value will be explored during the conference following three main themes.

## Theme 1 : Aesthetics and Values of Forest Landscapes

### EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE SENSIBILITY

The social value of trees seems to increase in reaction to landscape evolutions. But a historical approach also helps to understand the evolution of this sensibility, its expressions and representations through centuries. How, and through which values does our interest towards forest landscapes manifest itself ? What is the place and role of trees outside forests ?

### FOREST LANDSCAPES TYPOLOGY

Social mobilisations in favour of endangered trees show that a variety of actors take part in the birth and/or growth of a sensibility towards woodlands as a key feature of landscapes : local associations, environmental movements, landscape and territory actors... Yet, the concept of forest includes very diverse realities. Specialists identify several types of forests and forest landscapes. What are these typologies based on ? Do they concur with public perception ?

## Theme 2 : Uses and Practices of Forest Spaces

### FOREST FREQUENTATION AND PERCEPTION

Several practices, like peri-urban recreational activities, can shape the public's perception of forests. This sometimes leads to passionate reactions, e.g. passionate love of broadleaves and ancient woodlands, rejection of conifers, laments for disappearing so-called «unspoiled» landscapes. Who are forest users, and how do they perceive, value, and shape forest landscapes ?

### FOREST MANAGEMENT AND LANDSCAPES

Forest management plays an important role in shaping forest landscapes ; in return, forestry may have to adapt its practices according to landscape concerns. Traditional practices can be revived specifically for that purpose, while formerly they were used for economic reasons. How are forest practices affected by a landscape-oriented vision of woodlands ?

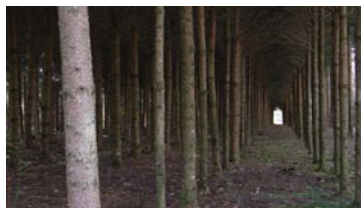
## Theme 3 : protection and valorisation of forest landscapes

### IDEAS FOR A LANDSCAPE POLICY

Traditionally, the importance of forest spaces lied mainly in its utilitarian value. The economic aspect of the question is less emphasized today. As regards landscapes, while the artistic point of view dominated the debate during the 18th and 19th Centuries, environmental discourses have since become more and more central. On what grounds are forest landscapes considered a significant issue ?

### SOCIO-POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE DIMENSIONS

Differences in landscape perception between major user groups can generate conflicts. Moreover, concerns about landscape quality can be expressed in different manners. The media present a variety of such discourses. Who do they use as spokespersons of forest landscape concerns ? What legislation has been implemented in response to the growing care for landscape quality ?



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## Participation information

The Conference will be held in September, 16 to 18, 2009 in Besançon (France) and will be followed by a bilingual publication.

Proposals in English or French, (one page maximum) may be sent to the organizing committee before September 15, 2008 to the following address :

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