A special issue devoted to the International Conference on Environment: Survival and Sustainability, 19-24 February 2007, Near East University, Northern Cyprus

Guest Editors
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THE MALAYSIAN FORESTER

The Malaysian Forester is an international journal published half yearly by the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia to promote knowledge on all aspects of Malaysian forests and forestry since 1931 (previously known as Malayan Forester until 1973). It is not a Government publication, although it is published with the approval of Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia. Articles by contributors in countries other than Malaysia are welcomed, provided the subject matter is applicable to Malaysia or to tropical forestry in general and not of purely local interest. The journal assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions expressed by contributors.

The Malaysian Forester is currently indexed by Elsevier Bibliographic Databases which include SCOPUS, EMBASE, Compendex, GEOBASE, EMBiology, Elsevier BIOBASE, FLUIDEX and World Textiles.

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Published by Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia
ISSN No: 0302-2935
Typeset by D.Zulkifli-Tukiman
Printed by OMR Press Sdn. Bhd.
FOREWORD

Environment is a subject that must be brought to the top of international agendas if the threats to sustainability and survival are to be countered. Economic development cannot eliminate poverty without conserving natural resources and maintaining ecosystem services. Nor can productive activity ignore the significant effects of resource extraction and waste generation. Therefore, environment must be the central focus of both international and national programs at all levels.

The International Conference on the Environment: Survival and Sustainability (ESS2007), organized by the Near East University between 19-24 February 2007 was held in Lefkosa, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The conference aimed to contribute to the worldwide debate and tried to create a multi-disciplinary discussion forum where experts from various disciplines were able to discuss environmental issues in 21 different fields. The Conference brought together 2,052 participants from 108 countries and 1,463 papers were presented which dealt with various kinds of environmental threats and proposed solutions at all scales.

This special issue of The Malaysian Forester contains 21 selected papers by researchers representing 10 countries, namely, France, Iran, Macedonia, Malaysia, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, UK and USA.

The readers will notice the wide range of topics displayed by the papers included. They vary from studies on forest fire risk assessment methodologies to the suitability of grafting at separating the effects of age and size in tree growth, and from the significance of ethnobotany for the preservation of cultural heritage to the evaluation of mechanical site preparation methods used for nutrient removal from the sites.

All the papers contain ideas and results relating to the various problems in the preservation and management of forests, which are an important part of the world ecosystem.

As a guest editor, I would like to express my gratitude to the Editorial Board of The Malaysian Forester for including some selected papers of the ESS2007 conference in this issue. I hope that the articles will provide the readers with a general idea regarding the content of the conference.

Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Gökçekuş
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(Vice Rector of the Near East University)
Lefkosa-TRNC
THE MALAYSIAN FORESTER (Volume 71 May 2008)

Contents

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF JUNIPERUS EXELSA BEI. IN RELATION TO ITS SITE FACTORS – Kursad Ozkan and Sezgin Celik

INTERRELATIONS BETWEEN HEIGHT GROWTH AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS OF PINUS NIGRA ARN. Ssp. PALLASIANA (LAMB.) HOLMOE – Kursad Ozkan, Serkan Gulsoy and Ahmet Mert

CARBON SEQUESTRATION POTENTIAL IN ABOVE GROUND BIOMASS OF THONG PHA PHUM NATIONAL FOREST, THAILAND – J. Torakunpisut, N. Gajawon and N. Ruankawe

STATUS AND PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA – Dora Dina Kolevska and Vladimir Maletic

THE POST FIRE PLANT DIVERSITY OF GALLIPOLI NATIONAL PARK (TURKEY) – J. Uysal, A. Guvensen, S. Celik, H. Ozcelik and M. Ozturk

DEVELOPING A FUZZY-GIS BASED METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH FOR THE FOREST FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT – Abbas Tolole Esilghiy, Hamieh Nkoosamran, Fatemeh Ratavian and Hashem Setaresh

HOW SERIOUS IS GLOBAL WARMING? GLOBAL WARMING AND THE SIXTH EXTINCTION – Rasti Omar

INVESTIGATION EFFECT OF GEOGRAPHICAL ASPECT FACTOR ON BIODIVERSITY INDICES OF WOODY SPECIES JUNIPERUS POLYCARRUS STANDS IN KOPEH DAGH MOUNTAINS – Toktam Momtaz Moghaddam and Soeyd Moksen Hossieni

INFLUENCE OF SOIL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERSISTICS ON SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF WILD ROSE (ROSA CANINA L.) AND ITS INDICATOR SPECIES IN BEYSHER WATERSHED, MEDITERRANEAN REGION, TURKEY – Kursad Ozkan and Nefi Bilir

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ETHNOBOTANYS AS AN INTEGRAL OF INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE: CASE STUDIES ON ORANG JAKUN AND SEMILAI OF TASIK CHINI AND TASIK BEBA, PAHANG, MALAYSIA – Zainal Hakim bin Mohd Zain, Mahamun bi Dol and Meor Abdullah Zaidi bin Meor Razali

PARROTIA PERSICA AND CARPINUS BETULUS INFECTION BY VISCUM ALBUM MISTLETOE IN CASPITAN FORESTS OF IRAN – S.M. Hosseini, D. Kartoolinejad, S.K. Mirnia, M. Akbarina and F. Shayanmehr


TESTING THE SUITABILITY OF GRAFTING IN STUDIES AIDED SEPARATING THE EFFECTS OF AGE AND SIZE IN TREE GROWTH – Hazandy Abdul Hamid, Maurizio Mencucci, Jordi Martinez-Vilalta and Dirk Vanderklein

ECOLOGY OF AILANTHUS ALTISSIMA (MILLER) SWINGLE (SIMAROUBACEAE) – Celal Yaric and Ertugrul Filiz

PLANNING FOREST OPERATIONS TO RESTORE RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS IN TURKEY – Abdullah E. Akev, Alieddin Yaksel, Mahmut Reis and Orhan Erdaş

SHORT-TERM RESPONSES OF CORSICAN PINE MORPHOLOGICAL PARAMETERS TO CLIMATIC CHANGES – M. Cancro, L. Ferrara and F. Pasqualini

EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT SITE PREPARATION METHODS ON NUTRIENT REMOVAL IN FAGUS ORIENTALIS LIPSKY ECOSYSTEMS IN THE WESTERN BLACK SEA REGION OF TURKEY – Oktay Yildiz, Derya Eren and Murat Sarginci

THE PREDICTION OF SUSPENDED SOLIDS OF RIVER IN FORESTED CATCHMENT USING ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK – Hafisan Jashir, Mohd Kamil Yusoff, Sharifuddin M. Zain, Mohamad Fizaz Ramlil, Ozelin Oksel, Zawawi Mat Perak and Abd. Rashid Haron

HEAVY METAL CONTENTS IN SOILS, PLANTS AND TREES NATURALLY COLONIZING TWO EX-MINING SITES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA – Raja Nur Ateka Raja Othman*, Sariyani Mohamed*, Mohamad Azani Alias and Rosi Mohamed