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Nordic Council of Ministers



## **“Forestry serving urban societies in the North Atlantic region”**

International Conference

Organised as part of the Icelandic chairmanship of the Nordic Council

*Reykjavik, Iceland, September 16-20, 2009*

***First announcement and call for abstracts***

### **Background**

In the North Atlantic Region, the social services provided by forests play an important role. With the high level of urbanisation in many of these countries, forests and other green areas are of great importance as recreational settings for urban dwellers. A growing body of research has illustrated the many positive impacts of forest recreation on human health and wellbeing, while forests have also been found to fulfil a wide range of educational, cultural and social needs.

In order to ensure that forests cater for the needs for urban societies, sound planning, design and management are required. Approaches such as urban forestry can provide a framework for this. Urban forestry comprises an integrative, multidisciplinary approach to the planning and management of all forest and tree resources – ranging from street trees to peri-urban woodlands – in and near urban areas, with the aim of providing multiple benefits. Based on central concepts and approaches such as sustainable forest management, long-term and detailed resource planning, and multi-functionality, forestry needs to develop a strong role within multidisciplinary teams dealing with urban green structures and the demands of urban populations.

### **Conference aims**

This international conference will bring together researchers and practitioners from the North Atlantic Region to 1) present and discuss the state-of-art of research on forestry serving urbanised societies; 2) find ways of better implementation of state-of-art knowledge; and 3) developing a joint research agenda for the future.

### **Target audiences**

Key audiences will be 1) the research community; 2) forest planners and managers; and 3) policy makers, both at city and national level. Focus will be on the North Atlantic Region (Nordic countries, Ireland, Netherlands, UK, Canada, Russia, USA, etc.), but experts from other countries (e.g. the Baltic States) are welcome to join.

### **Organisers**

The event is organised as part of the Icelandic chairmanship of the Nordic Council of Ministers, in collaboration with the Nordic-Baltic Centre of Advanced Research on Forestry Serving Urbanised Societies (CARE-FOR-US, [www.sl.life.ku.dk/care-for-us](http://www.sl.life.ku.dk/care-for-us)) and the European Forest Network. Local hosts are Icelandic Forest Research (Research branch of the Iceland Forest Service; [www.skogur.is](http://www.skogur.is)) and the Icelandic Forestry Association (<http://www.skog.is/forest/about.htm>).



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## Programme

### **Wednesday September 16, 2009**

18.00 hrs Registration and welcome reception

### **Thursday September 17, 2009**

9.00-10.30 Opening session  
10.30-11.00 Coffee break  
11.00-12.30 Plenary session: 'Forestry serving urbanised societies in the NA Region' I  
12.30-14.00 Lunch and posters  
14.00-17.00 Parallel sessions (see below)  
18.00-21.00 Reception at Reykjavik City Hall

### **Friday September 18, 2009**

9.00-10.30 Plenary session: 'Forestry serving urbanised societies in the NA Region' II  
10.30-11.00 Coffee break  
11.00-13.00 Parallel sessions (see below)  
13.00-14.30 Lunch and posters  
14.30-16.00 Panel debate: defining a joint research agenda for the future  
16.00-16.30 Coffee  
16.30-17.30 Closing session  
19.00-22.00 Conference dinner

### **Saturday September 19, 2009**

09.00-17.00 Full day excursion – Forestry serving urbanised societies in Iceland

## Topics for parallel sessions

- Health aspects of forest recreation.
- Social qualities of forests as affected by accessibility, structure and forest elements.
- Monetary value of forest services.
- Design and management of forests for recreation and other services.
- Exotic and native species for attractive urban forests.
- Communication, partnerships and community forestry.

## Keynote speakers

Among the speakers at the conference will be:

- Dr. Simon Bell, Edinburgh College of Art, UK
- Kevin Collins, Forestry Department, Ireland (provisional commitment)
- Ass. Prof. Brynhildur Davíðsdóttir, University of Iceland, Iceland (to be confirmed)



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- Clive Davies, Newcastle University, UK (to be confirmed)
- Prof. Dr. Roland Gustavsson, SLU, Sweden
- Dr. Andy Kenney, University of Toronto, Canada
- Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Dr. Dadi Mar Kristofersson, University of Iceland (To be confirmed)
- Dr. Kjell Nilsson, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Dr. Anders Busse Nielsen, SLU, Sweden
- Dr. Ulrika Stigsdotter, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (provisional commitment)
- Prof. Dr. Liisa Tyrväinen, Finnish Forest Research Institute, Finland (to be confirmed)

### Programme committee

- Dr Aðalsteinn Sigurgeirsson (chair), Icelandic Forest Research
- Dr Cecil C. Konijnendijk, University of Copenhagen
- Tróndur Leivsson, Environmental Inst. (Umhvørfisstovan), Faroe Islands
- Dr Anders Busse Nielsen, SLU
- Brynjólfur Jónsson director, Icelandic Forestry Association
- Samson Bjarnar Harðarson, Icelandic Agricultural University

### Call for abstracts

Abstracts can be submitted for voluntary oral and poster presentations dealing with one of the parallel session themes described above. Abstracts should not be longer than 300 words and include a title and full speaker details. Please submit your suggested contribution in Word-format to Dr Cecil Konijnendijk, [cck@life.ku.dk](mailto:cck@life.ku.dk), no later than June 30, 2009.

### Outputs

Ideas exist for publishing findings from the conference as a Tema Nord report, and possibly also in scientific journal 'Urban Forestry & Urban Greening'.

### Registration

Information about how to register online will become available during April 2009. There will be a registration fee for the conference.

### Conference venue

The conference will be held at the Grand Hotel Reykavik ([www.grand.is](http://www.grand.is)).