



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

SERBIAN-CHINESE FORESTRY FORUM

FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND INTEGRATED APPROACHES



BELGRADE, 2025



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PREFACE

The University of Belgrade – Faculty of Forestry, in cooperation with the College of Forestry and Biotechnology of Zhejiang A&F University, organised the scientific conference Serbian–Chinese Forestry Forum “Forests of the Future – Challenges, Opportunities and Integrated Approaches.” Thanks to the initiative of colleagues from our partner institution, the national conference gained an important international dimension.

Collaboration between our faculties has so far taken place primarily through the mobility of master’s students from China, who attend one semester of the master’s programme Forestry and Natural Resources Management, in English, at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Forestry. The visit of the delegation from Zhejiang raised new questions and opportunities for reciprocal student exchange, as well as for joint participation in international projects.

Numerous issues related to sustainable forest ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, and the restoration of degraded habitats under climate change represent shared challenges for forestry scientists worldwide. Modern forestry connects tradition with new knowledge and technologies – from sustainable forest management and the protection of soil and water resources to the development of renewable materials and the creation of green spaces that enhance quality of life.

The Forum provided a platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas among students, teachers, researchers, and professionals from various forestry-related sectors. Its goal was to strengthen academic cooperation, stimulate innovation, and promote the development of green, sustainable technologies, with special emphasis on students and young researchers.

With more than 220 participants and 71 submitted abstracts presenting research results and project activities, the content of the Forum was organised into five thematic sections:

1. The State and Challenges of Forestry in Serbia and China
2. New and Green Technologies and Knowledge in Forestry, Wood Technology, Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, and Ecological Engineering in the Protection of Soil and Water Resources
3. Responses and Adaptation of Trees and Forests to Environmental Stress
4. Forests and Human Well-Being (Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Ecological, Economic, and Social Dimensions)
5. The Role of Young Researchers and Innovation in the Future of Forestry (Student Projects, Start-up Ideas, and International Cooperation)

The Organising Committee will publish the full papers, after peer review, in a special issue of the Bulletin of the Faculty of Forestry. The Book of Abstracts will be available online, along with other activities carried out during the Forum. The programme was enriched by an excursion to the Bojčinska Forest, where participants were introduced to the management system of floodplain pedunculate oak forests (*Quercus robur* L.) and established agroforestry systems.

Finally, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to the College of Forestry and Biotechnology of Zhejiang A&F University for their support and cooperation in organising the Forum, as well as to everyone who contributed to preparing and publishing the Book of Abstracts.

Chair of the Organising Committee
Prof. Snežana Belanović Simić, D.Sc.

TOPIC 3

Responses and Adaptation of Trees and Forests to Environmental stress

RECOVERY AND RESTORATION OF ICE-STORM-DAMAGED FORESTS IN EASTERN SERBIA

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ABSTRACT

The effects of climate change represent one of the key challenges for modern forestry. The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme climate events, along with their numerous consequences, significantly disrupt the implementation of planned management operations. Their overall impact is often difficult to assess fully and introduces substantial uncertainty regarding future forest development. These considerations, together with the specific microclimatic and mesoclimatic characteristics of Eastern Serbia and the severe damage caused by the 2014 ice storm, which affected 43,305.78 ha of forests, initiated research focused on assessing the responses of the ice-damaged stands during the period 2022–2024. The study was conducted in the forest management area “Timočke šume” Boljevac, within the management units “Rtanj” (43°42'–43°48' N; 21°47'–21°58' E) and “Čestobrodica” (44°46'–44°50' N; 21°40'–21°48' E). Research on site conditions, stand characteristics, and regeneration dynamics was performed on 13 permanent plots measuring 50 × 50 m (total area 3.25 ha). Salvage logging activities prescribed in the rehabilitation plans were carried out once or repeatedly, depending on stand condition. From the standpoint of regeneration, the most favorable situations were those in which the degree of damage did not entirely compromise stand stability and structural integrity. Based on the three-year research, silvicultural guidelines for future restoration and regeneration of damaged stands were developed. Recommended measures include performing repeated silvicultural rehabilitation measures to support natural regeneration, retaining portions of less-damaged parent stands to ensure regeneration continuity, and applying artificial regeneration only as complementary support—primarily on smaller areas where natural regeneration is insufficient.

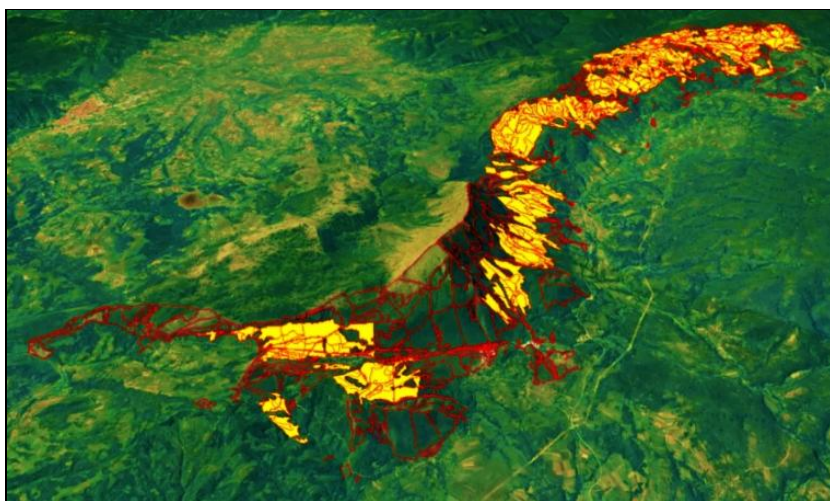


Figure 1. Forests damaged by the 2014 ice storm within the research area

Keywords: ice storm, forest restoration, natural regeneration, artificial regeneration, salvage logging.

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