

ASSESSMENT OF BIODIVERSITY

Bachmann, P., Köhl, M. & Päivinen, R. W. (eds), 1998: Assessment of Biodiversity for Improved Forest Planning. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht / Boston / London, 421 pages, ISBN 0-7923-4872-9, price 169 USD / 295 NLG.

The 51st volume of the Kluwer's series "Forestry Sciences" is devoted to the Proceedings of the Conference on Assessment of Biodiversity for Improved Planning which was held on October 7-11, 1996 in Monte Verità, Switzerland as the joint action of the European Forestry Institute, Joensuu, Finland and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zürich, and the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, Birmensdorf.

The conference provided the platform for exchanging experience on methodology, assessing and monitoring the variation of ecosystems and habitats in relation to biodiversity conservation and integrating the biodiversity into regional planning of forest management and land use.

The conference was a continuation of the workshop held in 1995 in Joensuu, Finland, the results of which were published by the European Forestry Institute in the proceedings "Assessment of Biodiversity for Improved Forest Management".

The proceedings are divided into five parts: (1) International Cooperatives on Monitoring Forest Biodiversity, (2) Information Needs, Economic and Policy Consequences of Biodiversity Oriented Forest Management, (3) Quantification of Forest Biodiversity, (4) Assessment and Monitoring Techniques for Forest Biodiversity, and (5) Integrating Forest Biodiversity Issues in Forest Management Planning. Some of the papers were methodologically oriented but there was also a group of papers which brought case studies of biodiversity assessment in Hungary, Romania, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic etc.

Although there is no paper directly aimed at the assessment of gene diversity, several contributions deal with the sampling methodology and they are also relevant for forest geneticists.

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