

INVITATION

**The Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) Workshop
Radcliffe Science Library, Parks Road, Oxford, UK
Thursday, 11 June 2009**

On behalf of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and Oxford Forest Information Service (OFIS) it is my privilege to invite your organization to attend a Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) Workshop to be held at the Radcliffe Science Library in Oxford, 11 June 2009.

GFIS is an initiative of the Collaborative Partnership (CPF) led by IUFRO the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. It is the only global service that allows sharing the forest related information through a single gateway at <http://www.gfis.net>. The information resources accessible through GFIS are freely available, and provide direct access to the original information.

While a series of GFIS workshops have taken place around the world during last years the workshop in Oxford will be the first of three workshops which will be held in Europe in 2009.

The workshop aims at informing communication and information managers of national forest organizations about GFIS and discussing challenges to manage and share information. In addition it aims at introducing the participants on how to become an information provider to GFIS.

The objectives of the GFIS workshop are, to:

- Discuss challenges to manage and share forest information
- Introduce GFIS to participants;
- Introduce the GFIS information exchange standard;
- Provide RSS2.0 experience to participants in describing information resources;
- Discuss how GFIS and other forest portals could be developed in order to offer a better service for users and information providers

Information and training provided at the workshop will be based on expert knowledge in forest information management of IUFRO and Oxford Forest Information Service (OFIS).

I'm pleased to inform you that based on the financial contribution of the Austrian Government there is no workshop fee and all meals during the workshop will be provided free of charge.

If your organization is interested in participating in the GFIS Workshop, please kindly email to Mrs. Schimpf (schimpf@iufro.org) as soon as possible but no later than 8th May 2009.

If you need additional information about GFIS or the workshop, please contact the GFIS coordinator, Mr Eero Mikkola (mikkola@iufro.org) or Mr Roger A. Mills (roger.mills@ouls.ox.ac.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Peter Mayer
IUFRO Executive Director