

Title: Building a global research network in tropical dry forests

IUFRO Division 1: Silviculture

Working Party 1.02.03: Ecology and Silviculture of Dry Forests in the Tropics

1. Contextualization

Tropical dry forests (TDF) harbour diverse and multifunctional landscapes (including high levels of species diversity and endemism) and are inextricably linked to the lives of millions of people across the globe. Additionally, they hold about 25% of the global terrestrial carbon (Bonan 2008), thus playing a major role in regulating regional and global climate dynamics (Lewis et al. 2009; Zhou et al. 2013).

Despite their global significance, TDF have long been perceived as resource-poor areas and hence have received less attention for research and development interventions than its counterpart biome, the humid tropical forests (Syium 2020). As a consequence of this pervasive misconception, TDF are still among the least studied ecosystems and remain undervalued globally, often regarded as ‘wasteland’ or simply overlooked in many national policies and development programs (Woldeamanuel 2011; Dexter et al. 2018). The substantial lack of knowledge on the many factors involved in their dynamics and resilience limits the options for sustainable management. Syium (2020) refers that TDF are caught in a spiral of deforestation, fragmentation, degradation, and desertification due to a combination of factors including climate change and urgency to satisfy the needs of an ever-growing human population. The way out of this spiral is to fill the knowledge gaps in support decision-making for sustainable management, restoration and biodiversity conservation in these ecosystems.

2. Aims

This webinar aims to create the foundations to build a global TDF network that will focus on filling knowledge gaps about the interactions between climate and ecosystem dynamics. Building this knowledge at the global level is key for an understanding of the commonalities

as well as idiosyncrasies among TDF and consequently support local and international efforts on building resilience and promoting adaptation to climate change.

3. Agenda

Date: 12 June 2025 (Time: 1pm GMT)

Hour	topic	Responsible	Institution
5 mins	opening	Natasha Ribeiro	IUFRO RG 1.02.03 (Silviculture and Management of dry tropical forests)
Firs block: an overview of the TDF			
10 mins	An overview of Asian TDF	Michael Jenke	Katsetart University (Bangkok)
10 mins	An overview African TDF	Sally Archibald	Wits University /Socio-ecological observatory of southern African woodlands (SEOSAW)
10 mins	SECO project	Casey Ryan	University of Edinburgh
15 mins	Q&A		
55 mins	Open discussion on the RG expectations (2024-2029)	Natasha Ribeiro (moderator) and all participants	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Expectation/Benefits/interests to participate in the RG2. Research topics (id main rq for tdf)3. joint publications (policy paper/commentary, special issues, other)4. Participation in upcoming scientific events5. Newsletter6. Mailing list7. AOB
5 mins	Closing	Sven Gunter	

4. Registration and link

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://virginia.zoom.us/meeting/register/-q0YYFxaRgqtMQ7ZS3TSiA>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.