

old forests NEW MANAGEMENT

ATTENTION CHIEFS OF STAFF, NEWS DIRECTORS MEDIA RELEASE

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The "Old Forests, New Management" Conference, a major international science conference to be held in Hobart in February 2008, was announced today in Hobart as part of the Sir Mark Oliphant Conferences series.

The conference will bring forest scientists together from a range of disciplines that contribute to the goal of achieving ecologically sustainable management and use of old forests globally.

"It is a great honour for this conference to be awarded a place in the Sir Mark Oliphant Conferences series," said conference spokesman Professor Gordon Duff.

"It acknowledges the calibre of research that will be presented at the conference by international scientists, and the importance of having a scientific conference about management of old growth forests at this point in time," he said.

Speakers from across the globe will come to Hobart in February to share their knowledge and perspectives on the management of old forests, including experts from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Germany, Sweden and the United States.

Three of these international experts, visiting from three continents, spoke today on the opportunity offered by the conference to inform public debate, and the science behind the management of old forests: Professor Tom Spies from the United States, Professor Jürgen Bauhaus from Germany and Professor Ivan Tomaselli from Brazil.

The conference is organised around six themes:

- Social and historical importance of old-growth forests
- Biology of old-growth forests
- Long-term, multi-disciplinary experiments
- Conservation and reserve management
- Towards ecological silviculture
- Shaping old-growth forest management regimes

The conference is hosted by Forestry Tasmania and the Cooperative Research Centre for Forestry; and supported by the International Union of Forestry Research Organisations, the Federal and State governments via the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement, the University of Tasmania, and the Sir Mark Oliphant International Frontiers of Science and Technology conference series. This series is managed by the Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering in consultation with the Department of Education Science and Training.

The conference is now open for abstracts and registration. More information at www.oldforests.com.au
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