

Silvilaser 2008: 8th international conference on LiDAR applications in forest assessment and inventory



Edinburgh, 17th to 19th September 2008

SilviLaser 2008 brought together research scientists and practitioners from around the world to share their experience in the development and application of LiDAR for forest assessment and inventory. Presentations covered all forms of laser system, from all possible platforms, and across a full range of forest applications. Discussions covered the state-of-the-art in laser systems and data processing techniques in order to meet a range of information needs. The conference encouraged new and stronger linkages between LiDAR practitioners, and in particular between researchers, data providers and end-users of derived products.

The conference had six session themes:

- forestry applications & inventory;
- data fusion;
- ecological applications & habitat mapping;
- waveform LiDAR;
- algorithm & techniques development;
- terrestrial laser scanning & laser cameras.

We were particularly pleased to have a special session on ecological applications for forest habitat assessment, which was sponsored by the British Ecological Society. This session began with a keynote presentation, entitled 'LiDAR and Wildlife-Habitat Applications' delivered by Dr Wesley Newton, of the USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. His current projects include developing bird species-habitat models using LiDAR data in northern forests and developing management optimization algorithms. Dr Newton emphasised to the assembled audience the need to include wildlife managers and ecologists in LiDAR data acquisition campaigns to ensure maximum benefit of future data sets. There then followed six scientific presentations, which covered the use of LiDAR data to characterise canopy gap dynamics and micro-climate, the ecological structure of dry Eucalypt forest, and bird habitat.

SilviLaser 2008 attracted 170 delegates. Amongst these were seven post-doctoral students, who were able to attend SilviLaser 2008 due to a student bursary scheme

based on BES sponsorship. The post-doctoral students all have a research focus on the application of LiDAR data for forest ecology, and came from the UK, France, Finland, Sweden and Brazil.

The conference proceedings contain 68 full papers plus an additional 14 abstracts, all of which were double-blind reviewed by at least two experts in the field. The standard of submission was extremely high, and competition for oral presentations was strong. The rigorous reviewing process ensured very high quality for the papers in the proceedings and the selection of a diverse range of high quality presentations. Copies of the individual papers will soon be available from the SilviLaser 2008 web site (www.forestresearch.gov.uk/Silvilaser2008).

SilviLaser 2008 Co-Chairs:

Ross Hill (Bournemouth University)

Juan Suárez (Forest Research, Edinburgh)

SilviLaser 2008: proceedings

The compiled proceedings for SilviLaser are available to [download](#).

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