



HAL
open science

Interactions between under- and over-storeys

Philippe Balandier, Christian Ginisty

► **To cite this version:**

Philippe Balandier, Christian Ginisty. Interactions between under- and over-storeys: Consequences for designing silvicultural systems adapted to climate changes. Forests for the future: sustaining society and the environment. XXIII IUFRO World Congress, Aug 2010, Seoul, South Korea. 518 p. hal-02753713

HAL Id: hal-02753713

<https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-02753713>

Submitted on 3 Jun 2020

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Interactions between under- and over-storeys, consequences to design silvicultures adapted to climate change. Balandier, P. (*Cemagref/INRA Clermont-Ferrand, France; philippe.balandier@cemagref.fr*), Ginisty, C. (*Cemagref Nogent-sur-Vernisson, France; christian.ginisty@cemagref.fr*)

Forests comprise several interacting strata of vegetation; overstorey trees are most obvious but sub-canopy strata, collectively termed understory or undergrowth, are typically present including herbaceous plants, shrubs, seedlings and saplings, and suppressed under- and midstorey trees. For decades only adult trees have been considered in forests and most often, only crop trees. However the understory also plays a fundamental role in ecosystem functioning and health. Various silvicultural systems are currently designed or experimented in relation with climate changes, and in particular a reduction of soil water availability together with an increase of scorching temperatures in many regions of the temperate area. Modifying tree species composition and density of the forest ecosystem will have consequences on the understory composition and functioning, which in turn will interact with the overstorey. These interactions will modify the whole ecosystem functioning in terms of biodiversity, tree regeneration, wild fauna habitats, pest and diseases, etc. Therefore it is compulsory to account for the interplays between the different strata in forest to better design silvicultural operations relative to climate changes. Examples of such interactions will be given and consequences for designing experimental systems and new silvicultures will be discussed.