**IUFRO Meeting Report Form**

Organizers of IUFRO meetings and IUFRO focal persons at IUFRO co-sponsored meetings, respectively, are kindly requested to fill in and return this form within two weeks after the meeting or by a given deadline by email (wolfrum@iufro.org). This information will be posted at the relevant IUFRO web pages and may be used for IUFRO News and the IUFRO Annual Report.

*(Note: Save this file under a new name and write directly into the form.)*

**1) IUFRO focal person/meeting organizer:**

***Name:***Janice Burns

***Function in IUFRO:***Thematic Networking Manager, Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO’s Special Programme for Development of Capacities (SPDC), and project coordinator of the project “Wood for Globe”.

***Email:*** *burns@iufro.org*

**2) Meeting data:**

***Full title of the meeting:*** Policy Dialogue, Advancing sustainable wood policy and science for carbon-neutral and resilient economies

***Date and venue*:** 25 March 2024, 10:00-17:00 CET, **Venue:** Austria Room (C250 bis), FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

**Meeting website:** https://www.iufro.org/science/partnership-projects/wood-for-globe/

**Number of participants**: 161 participants online, approx. 30 in the room

**Number of registered participants online:** 301

**Countries represented:** Global

**3) Organization of the meeting:**

***All IUFRO Units involved*:** -

***Host organization(s) and sponsor(s)*:** The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

***Study tour(s) to:*** *-*

**4) Meeting report** *(max. 100 words per paragraph)*

1. ***Background information (meeting context)***

In 2022, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Centre for Bioeconomy at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), engaged with the WOOD for GLOBE project, funded through the Forest Fund, Republic of Austria, an initiative by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML). The aim of this global policy dialogue was to generate insights and recommendations from the CPF organizations, governments, and civil society to accelerate the uptake of sustainable wood as part of policies to achieve climate neutrality and resilience. The speakers discussed preliminary results of the WOOD for GLOBE project, exchanged lessons learned from their experiences, and to provided their actionable recommendations to deliver the benefits of increased use of wood in the bioeconomy globally with the urgency needed.

1. ***Key issues discussed/latest findings in the field (bullet points or text)***

Contributions from sustainable wood to sustainable bioeconomy and the need to raise awareness of policymakers and change perception of the general public. The participants discussed how these contributions are provided and the opportunities and challenges to the deliver them, highlighting the need to reconcile biodiversity and socioeconomic aspects of landuse, and the opportunity for win-win strategies represented by the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and the Global Housing Strategy (making housing affordable for all).

There are strong synergies between the efforts to green cities and the sustainable wood agenda.

Wood in construction is experiencing a strong momentum in northern countries, however the Global South misses more demonstration cases, with documented information, that can raise awareness of policy makers and consumers, and trigger investments.

Insufficient data, unclear definitions of sustainable wood policies and limited knowledge sharing increase uncertainty and slow progress in adoption of sustainable wood use and investments. Priority actions include better monitoring, eco-friendly product development, and stronger partnerships.

Strengthening bioeconomy networks involves improving local policies, fostering technology integration, and promoting community-focused approaches.

1. ***Conclusions (if possible, summarize key conclusions across presentations):***

**Collaboration and Advocacy:**

* + Integrate sustainable forestry with climate and biodiversity concerns, collaborating with related conventions.
	+ Ensuring smallholders, forest communities and Indigenous Peoples are involved in discussions and action.

**Private Sector Engagement:**

* + Ensure climate resilience across all segments, emphasizing private sector involvement, including small and medium-sized enterprises.

**Awareness and Communication:**

* + Raise awareness and sensitize stakeholders, supported by strong communications and marketing campaigns.
	+ Change consumption and production patterns through persistent global, regional, and municipal communication and awareness programs, backed by political will and sufficient funding.
	+ Coordinated messages are needed: Enhanced coordination can generate stronger messages and reach more impact across the globe.

**Support for Sustainable Practices:**

* + Pathways to ensure sustainable wood supply range from increased harvesting and producing efficiency to establishment of new highly productive plantations, increased productivity of agroforestry and production from trees outside forests.
	+ Develop markets for wood consumption to promote sustainable building practices.
	+ Highlight forestry's critical contribution to climate change mitigation, adaptation, livelihoods, and economies reliant on forestry revenues.
	+ Explore synergies, but also identify and address trade-offs.

**Innovation and Technology:**

* + Emphasize innovation, encompassing geospatial information and AI.
	+ Facilitate technological transfer and improve data collection and consolidation.
	+ Build capacities, develop skills, and increase technical cooperation, especially in developing countries.

**Institutional Strengthening and Financial Support:**

* + Strengthen institutions and secure financial investments and incentives.

**Education and Awareness:**

* + Educate the public that sustainable forestry is positive for forests and not cause of deforestation or degradation.

**A Call for Action:**

* + Reliance on science and data, enhanced governance, and ensure consideration of inclusive approaches and impacts on vulnerable people.
	+ Sustainable wood is a low-carbon option to address the housing deficit and increase affordable sustainable housing.
	+ Demonstration projects are needed to increase Global South awareness and generate engagement.
	+ A variety of pathways can sustainably support more wood in the bioeconomy:
	+ Increased efficiency
	+ Utilization of more species
	+ Increased forest and tree planting, especially using degraded land.
	+ A shift of production systems towards circularity, increasing total value and jobs per hectare.
	+ People's perception of wood is still a barrier: there's a need to raise awareness and sensitize stakeholders, supported by strong communications and marketing campaigns.
	+ Need to mobilize resources, including through climate and restoration finance.
	+ Focus on the essential and outcomes at scale.
	+ Multi-sectoral approach
	+ Innovation
	+ Support to adequate building policies and codes.
	+ Capacity building, skills development, and technical cooperation, especially in developing countries.
	+ Green Cities
	+ Communication
1. ***Outlook to future activities (proceedings, future meetings, other):***
* Carrefour du Bois – Discussion of Wood for Globe results and raising awareness of upcoming Ministerial meeting at country event with Congo Basin countries. (28-29 May)​
* IUFRO Congress – FCN session S5.2 “Convincing or compelling? Powerful sustainability communication to shape a future with more wooden buildings” will promote sustainable wood awareness and include Wood for Globe Results. (25 June)​
* Ministerial Sustainable Wood event: Championing sustainable wood: Leading pathways to climate neutrality and resilience (19 July)​

**4) Photos**

**Caption:** Advancing Sustainable Wood Policy and Science for Carbon-neutral and Resilient Economies, WOOD for GLOBE Project and Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) Initiative, Hybrid Global Policy Dialogue Rome and online, 25 March 2024 9:30-17:00 CET, Rome, Italy

**Link to the album:** https://www.flickr.com/photos/faoforestry/53616527653/in/album-72177720315749209/

**Credit (not protected by copyright):** Roberto Cenciarelli

**5) Other information**:

1. Communication activities (dissemination of information about the meeting; promotion of IUFRO)
2. Related publications /websites: <https://www.fao.org/forestry/our-focus/forest-products/sustainable-wood-for-a-sustainable-world/en>