

59TH IUFRO ENLARGED BOARD
VIRTUAL MEETING
9-11 September 2020



**MINUTES OF THE
59th IUFRO ENLARGED BOARD MEETING
9-11 September 2020**

02 October 2020



A screenshot from Zoom showing a part of the IUFRO Enlarged Board meeting participants.

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DRAFT MINUTES

02 October 2020

The IUFRO Enlarged Board (EB) met for the first time virtually for its 59th Meeting via the video-conferencing tool ‘Zoom’ on three consecutive days from 9 to 11 September 2020. The meeting was chaired by IUFRO President John Parrotta; and technically hosted by IUFRO HQ. The list of participants can be found in Annex 1.

Prior to the Enlarged Board meeting, Task Force Coordinators and Division Coordinators have met twice for their virtual pre-Board meetings (on 28 May; on 31 August 2020 and 8 September 2020). Also the Management Committee met twice virtually prior to this meeting (on 2 June and 7 September 2020).

1 Opening of 59th Enlarged Board Meeting and Welcome Remarks

John Parrotta (IUFRO President and Chair of the meeting) welcomed the members of the IUFRO Enlarged Board, invited participants and observers, and opened the first virtual IUFRO EB meeting.

J. Parrotta communicated regrets received from Maria Patek, HQ Host Country Representative, who was represented by Gerfried Gruber, Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT). She had submitted a signed power of authority in accordance with IUFRO Statutes Art. VII., lit 9, and authorized her representative to vote on all respective agenda items.

In addition, Monica Gabay, Coordinator Division 9, would join the meeting only partly due to conflicting commitment at the Ministry of Environment of Argentina. She was represented during her absence by Deputy Division 9 Coordinator Jinlong Liu.

Alexander Buck (IUFRO Executive Director and Online Moderator of the meeting) provided information about the conduct and technical aspects of this first virtual meeting ever of the Enlarged Board.

2 Brief introduction of participants

The participants briefly introduced themselves in a *tour de table*.

3 Adoption of the agenda

J. Parrotta asked the Board to adopt the agenda:

MOTION 1:

To adopt the agenda^{1,2} of the virtual 59th IUFRO Enlarged Board meeting.

Seconded by Daniela Kleinschmit.

The motion was carried unanimously.

¹ See document "Draft agenda – Board item 3.1" – posted on the Internet

² See document "Annotated draft agenda – Board item 3.2" – posted on the Internet

4 Approval of the minutes of the 58th Enlarged Board meeting in Curitiba, Brazil and pending actions

The Chair invited the Board to approve the minutes of the 58th Enlarged Board meeting, held on 26-27 September 2019 in Curitiba, Brazil:

MOTION 2:

To approve the minutes³ of the 58th IUFRO Enlarged Board meeting in Curitiba, Brazil.

Seconded by Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch.

The motion was carried unanimously.

A Buck informed the Board that from 11 actions⁴ adopted at the 2019 Curitiba Enlarged Board meeting, 7 actions had been fully implemented, 2 actions were of a permanent nature, and 2 actions were pending:

- Action 3 regarding the review of the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) would be addressed under agenda item 12 “*Special Programmes, Projects and Initiatives*”;
- Action 10 regarding the preparation of a draft strategy communication will be addressed in the context of agenda item 16 “*IUFRO Communication*”

Permanent Actions:

- *Division Coordinators to motivate all Research Groups and Working Parties to make use of the possibility of appointing up to three Deputies by nominating additional female officeholders and/or officeholders from less represented regions;*
- *Members of the IUFRO Enlarged Board to regularly share content and news items with IUFRO HQ for use in IUFRO publications, such as IUFRO News, IUFRO blog and other communication activities;*

5 Statements by IUFRO President and Executive Director

Both written reports^{5 6} to the Board were considered as read, so that only issues of special importance were highlighted by the presenters and questions and comments recorded.

President’s report

J. Parrotta outlined his specific activities related to his role as President since the Curitiba Congress, notably his continual work with IUFRO’s Executive Director and others at IUFRO HG in Vienna, his representation of IUFRO at international meetings and events (physical and virtual), including work with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and communications and outreach efforts.

Referring to his introductory speech at the IUFRO World Congress 2019 in Curitiba, he indicated that priorities he had set, such as strengthening communication within and outside the Union, increasing participation of scientists, students and youth, and collaboration with scientists in other fields, have not changed in times of the pandemic. He stressed the relevance IUFRO’s activities to the many challenges faced by broader society, and the importance of orienting our research towards pressing global issues that go far beyond forests – climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss, food security, sustainable livelihoods, and human rights, among other critical environmental, social and economic challenges.

³ See document “Draft minutes of the 58th Enlarged Board meeting – Board item 4.1” posted on the Internet

⁴ See document “List of implementation of Actions – Board item 4.2” posted on the Internet

⁵ See document “Report of the IUFRO President – Board item 5.1” – posted on the Internet

⁶ See document “Report of the Executive Director – Board item 5.2” – posted on the Internet

He reflected on the importance for the Board, in these difficult times, to deal with the uncertainties regarding future support for forest science and education, but also emphasized that there were, nonetheless, real opportunities for sharing evidence-based knowledge, and for IUFRO to be a stronger, more resilient, inclusive and influential organization.

Executive Director's report

A. Buck clarified that his report had to be considered as a report of the entire IUFRO HQ. He expressed thanks to President's Nominee Hubert Hasenauer who had made all arrangements to host IUFRO's Enlarged Board meeting (postponed from May to September 2020) at BOKU University in Vienna, but, due to COVID-19, the meeting had to be held virtually. In this context, A. Buck highlighted that IUFRO's expertise about digital meetings has increased, and resulted in upgrading the technical infrastructure at HQ, including high-speed Internet and state-of-the-art video-conferencing equipment.

Furthermore, A. Buck highlighted another important aspect of work, i.e. to consult IUFRO project donors and mobilize the resources required for Special Programmes, Projects and Initiatives to ensure that they can continue to be operational at the largest extent. Besides the successful establishment of a new five-year strategic partnership with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), also existing donors, including the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and the Global Environment Facility have continued to support to IUFRO. In addition, funding from a philanthropic foundation, the "Audemars-Watkins Foundation" of Switzerland could be mobilized for IUFRO-SPDC's work on forest landscape restoration. Generous support has also been received from member organizations, including the United States Forest Service and the National Institute of Forest Science of the Republic of Korea. Finally, another new cooperation agreement has recently been established with the Austrian Research Centre for Forests in support of the IUFRO Special Programme Directors' Forum.

A. Buck informed the Board about the developments in IUFRO membership⁷. Since the Board meeting in September 2019, 4 new Member Organizations and 6 Associate Members had joined IUFRO, 8 Member Organizations and 10 Associate Members had decided to withdraw their membership. In part, these figures reflected developments in member organizations, such as the recent merger of the previous members INRA and IRSTEA into INREA. Whenever a member organization communicated its intention to withdraw its membership, IUFRO HQ contacted the focal person in order to better understand reasons for the withdrawal.

The Board acknowledged that operations by IUFRO HQ have continued seamlessly, and that there had not been any communications breakdowns in these difficult times.

The President presented the following motion:

MOTION 3:

To approve the list of new members (member organizations and associate members) of IUFRO.

Seconded by Mike Wingfield.

The motion was carried unanimously.

⁷ See PPT document "Report of the Executive Director" presented at the meeting

6 “Working in IUFRO”

A. Buck informed the IUFRO Board that the IUFRO team in Vienna had been growing since the IUFRO World Congress 2019, including some adjustments of tasks of individual staff members. He presented the general organizational structure of IUFRO HQ and provided an overview⁸ of the main tasks and responsibilities of each staff member.

In response to earlier requests by IUFRO officeholders and for information, A. Buck introduced the most important documents⁹ that make “Working in IUFRO” easier:

- Terms of Reference listing the main tasks of IUFRO Board members, including President, Vice-Presidents, Division Coordinators, Deputy Division Coordinators, Task Force Coordinators and President’s Nominees;
- “How Research Group and Working Party Coordinators Conduct Business” summarizing the most important aspects of their work;
- “IUFRO Officeholders and IUFRO Headquarters” listing the things HQ would be particularly interested to know;

Importantly, all documents mentioned are available from the tool box of the respective IUFRO Units on the IUFRO website. In order to have full access to the information on the IUFRO website, including restricted information, it was reminded that the Enlarged Board members need to register for a user account at the IUFRO website.

The Board drew attention to a few inconsistencies in the Terms of Reference documents, more particularly in those providing guidance to Task Force Coordinators (funding situation) and President’s Nominees (number of representatives). Those editorial errors would be corrected by IUFRO HQ.

7 Divisions

Daniela Kleinschmit (IUFRO Vice-President Divisions) introduced the agenda point and referred to the written summary report¹⁰ by Divisions considered to be the basis for the discussion of the Board. In her oral summary, she expressed appreciation about the high motivation of Division Coordinators and their open-minded, enthusiastic and collaborative thinking across Divisions. In this context, she pointed out some important topics of overarching character, i.e. landscape perspective (corresponding with FLR); adaptation to climate change; bio-economy; all cross-cutting issues that corresponded well with themes dealt with by Task Forces.

D. Kleinschmit noted with appreciation that all nine Divisions had successfully formed the leadership teams for the current term and acknowledged communication efforts by Division in response to the challenge of COVID-19, such as Division newsletters, webinars, podcasts and other digital tools. The latter had over-shaded all activities and resulted in cancellation and postponement of many meetings (only few meetings in fact took place), and the uncertainty of the situation would impact on IUFRO in the long run.

Prior to the Enlarged Board meeting, Division Coordinators had met in pre-Board meetings which have been recognized as an important mechanism providing opportunity for learning from each other

⁸See document “Terms of Reference and distribution of tasks by IUFRO HQ staff – Board document 6.1” – posted on the Internet

⁹ See document “Compilation of Terms of Reference, guidelines and tools with regard to “Working in IUFRO” – Board document 6.2” – posted on the Internet

¹⁰ See document “Compilation of written reports by Divisions 1-9 – Board document 7.1” – posted on the Internet

regarding the organization of the Divisions and visibility. Woodam Chung (Coordinator Division 3) summarized the discussions and presented results¹¹ to the Enlarged Board. The items discussed in detail related to

- *Communications*, including the proposal to create a new Communication Officer position in each Division (e.g. one of the Deputies or any other member of the Division) and the possible creation of periodic Division Newsletters as a potentially effective means to keep Division members connected during the time period in-person meetings and interactions are limited;
- *All-Division Meetings*, including several options ranging from organizing all-Division meetings in conjunction with the IUFRO Regional Conference in Moscow, Russia, in September 2021 or other major IUFRO events, to co-hosting a conference by multiple Divisions (e.g. Rome in 2022) or in conjunction with the Board meeting in fall 2022;
- *Publications*, including clear identification of what is considered an IUFRO publication, inclusion of IUFRO acknowledgment clauses and logo in publications but also for the IUFRO-branded meetings and developing a process for the quality control for publications; and
- *Strategic issues*, including virtual conferencing and its limitations, the suggestion to the HQ to explore possibility of purchasing licenses for the main video-conferencing platforms to be used by members regardless of their financial abilities. It was also agreed to keep updating the document on best practices and guidelines for virtual meetings, developed by J-P. Skovsgaard and Teresa Fonseca.

W. Chung emphasized the need of “*thinking outside of the box*”, engaging and attracting more young people to IUFRO, and the preparedness of Division Coordinators to initiate and invite other IUFRO Units into a dialogue and early discussion on the future needs of IUFRO as an organization in this rapidly changing world.

J. Parrotta thanked D. Kleinschmit and Division Coordinators for the Divisions’ contributions.

The following actions resulted from the discussion:

Actions 1 to 4:

- *Upon recommendation by the pre-Board meeting of Divisions, the IUFRO Management Committee (MC) to consider in more detail the possibility of officially establishing a new Communication Officer position in each Division;*
- *HQ to collect examples from Divisions 4 and 7 and to develop a newsletter template for use of Divisions or any Unit wishing to publish newsletters;*
- *The IUFRO President, with the assistance of HQ, to assess options for parallel hosting of all-Division meetings, during the regional conference in Moscow 2021 or in connection with the Board meeting in 2022;*
- *HQ to remind organizers of meetings, conferences and IUFRO publications to include acknowledgement of IUFRO and the IUFRO logo in their resulting publications;*

Finally D. Kleinschmit informed the Board that changes in the IUFRO Structure of Divisions and officeholders provided by Division Coordinators had been compiled in a summary background document¹² (consisting of 3 documents). She then proposed the following motion:

¹¹ After the meeting, W. Chung provided a written summary of the Pre-Board Division Coordinators Meeting to all participants

¹² See document “Compilation of proposed changes in Structure of Divisions and officeholders – Board document 7.2 (consisting of 3 documents)” – posted on the Internet

MOTION 4:

To approve changes in the IUFRO structure and/or officeholders as reflected in background documents 7.2 (consisting of 3 documents).

Seconded by Sandra Luque.

The motion was carried unanimously.

8 IUFRO World Congresses

IUFRO World Congress 2019

Together with Yeda Maria Malheiros de Oliveira (COC Co-Chair, IUFRO World Congress 2019), Joberto Veloso de Freitas (COC Co-Chair, IUFRO World Congress 2019) presented the COC's Final Congress Report¹³ to the Board. In a PowerPoint slideshow, he summarized important statistics and presented pictures and impressions from the key sessions and social events, such as tree planting ceremony in the Botanical Garden, opening ceremony, receptions, signing of the Congress resolution, the gala dinner and closing ceremony of the XXV World Congress in Curitiba, Brazil. Members of the Brazilian COC team, Y. de Oliveira, Patricia Pova do Mattos, Maristela Avila Abrantes, Erich Schaitza and J. de Freitas thanked the IUFRO Board for their support and collaboration in the Curitiba Congress.

J. Parrotta commended the Brazilian COC team for the success achieved with this first IUFRO Congress in Latin America. The Congress Report 2019 would be available on-line from the IUFRO website.

IUFRO World Congress Stockholm 2024

Fredrik Ingemarson (COC Chair, IUFRO World Congress 2024) informed about institutional arrangements and preparatory activities for the IUFRO World Congress 2024 in Stockholm, more particularly carrying out risk analyses for 2024, and developing the Congress logo and graphic design. He introduced Ms Karin Hornay, full-time project leader to the Board. Collaboration with the Chair of the 2024 Congress Scientific Committee (Elena Paoletti) has also been initiated via a meeting to be held virtually in October.

Action 5:

- *The IUFRO 2024 Congress Secretariat to finalize the Congress logo and design for approval by the IUFRO Management Committee at its next meeting in April 2021;*

Congress Scientific Committee (CSC) 2024

Elena Paoletti (CSC Chair, IUFRO World Congress 2024) informed the Board about her plans for constituting the membership of the CSC and reiterated that Divisions had been invited to nominate one to two candidates per Division for participation in the CSC by 15 October. She also summarized the proposed tasks for the CSC related to preparing the scientific content of the Congress. Forthcoming preparatory discussions would include abstract handling, potential number of slots for sessions, as well as Congress title and themes.

Actions 6 and 7:

- *By 15 October 2020, each Division to submit to CSC Chair Elena Paoletti one to two candidates per Division for participation in the CSC, considering gender and geographical balance; and*
- *The CSC Chair, in consultation with the President, to make the final selection of CSC members for approval by the Board by electronic ballot vote in November 2020;*

¹³ See document "Final Congress Report Curitiba 2019 by COC – Board item 8.1" posted on the Internet

9 Welcome Day 2

J. Parrotta provided a brief summary of the previous day. A. Buck presented a short video that introduced the IUFRO team in their professional environment and showed their individual favorite places in Vienna to the Board.

10 IUFRO Task Forces

Shirong Liu (Vice-President for Task Forces) chaired this agenda item. From the comprehensive written summary report¹⁴ he introduced highlights of key activities and recent outcomes of the current nine Task Forces (“Monitoring Global Tree Mortality Patterns and Trends”, “Fire\$: Economic Drivers of Global Wildland Fire Activity”, “Forests and Water Interactions in a Changing Environment”, “Gender Equality in Forestry”, “Resilient Planted Forests Serving Society and Bioeconomy”, “Strengthening Mediterranean Nursery Systems for Forest Reproductive Material Procurement to Adapt to the Effects of Climate Change”, “Transforming Forest Landscapes for Future Climates and Human Well-Being”, “Unlocking the Bioeconomy and Non-Timber Forest Products”, “Joint IUFRO-IFSA Task Force on Forest Education”) and thanked the Coordinators for their excellent cooperation.

In addition, Shirong Liu provided a summary of the virtual pre-Board meetings of Task Forces and highlighted the following discussion items to be considered by the Board:

- *Criteria of IUFRO publications*, i.e. to what extent would Task Force publications qualify as IUFRO publications? There was a need for guidance or best management practices;
- *Increased visibility of Task Forces*, including better integration of Task Forces topics in IUFRO themes, and in the World Congress program;
- Comments were also provided on the *IUFRO website redesign*, and editorial comments, suggestions and recommendations on the IUFRO Strategy document and Strategy Action Plan.

In the discussion it was suggested that expertise across Divisions and Task Forces could be oriented towards more content-related work on global key topics which, in turn, could also be used to populate the IUFRO website with state-of-the-art information. The suggestion was put forward to pay attention to sharing Task Force information more intensively with stakeholders in order to increase impact beyond science. Additional suggestions by the participants included: strengthening the interaction between the Divisions and Task Forces (inviting each other to their meetings); having the themes of IUFRO conferences identified well in advance so that the TFs and Divisions could better align their possible contributions to these meetings; TFs to develop a similar list of emerging/hot topics as the Divisions did; having cross-cutting topics in the Congress where both TFs and Divisions could present; options for the H to assist TFs to publish their reports.

Shirong Liu reported on the Management Committee discussion regarding the procedure to extend the Task Forces’ term beyond the current two years. Those Task Forces that were interested to prolong their work until the IUFRO World Congress 2024 would be asked to submit an updated work plan to the Management Committee and approval by the Board.

J. Parrotta thanked S. Liu for his report and all Task Force Coordinators for their contributions.

¹⁴ See document “Compilation of written reports by Coordinators of IUFRO Task Forces – Board document 10.1” posted on the Internet

Actions 8 and 9:

- *Task Forces that wish to have their mandate extended until 2024 to prepare updated work plans for consideration by the Management Committee at its next meeting in April 2021 with the intent to have them approved by the Board in September 2021;*
- *CSC Chair to consider including Task Force representative(s) into the CSC for the IUFRO World Congress 2024;*

11 IUFRO President's Nominees

J. Parrotta introduced the issue by indicating that President's Nominees had been selected to strive for a regional, gender and scientific balance in IUFRO. Since the last EB meeting in Curitiba, the seven President's Nominees have individually worked with the President and defined their respective Terms of Reference¹⁵ reflecting their and IUFRO's needs and opportunities.

President's Nominees highlighted issues from the compiled summary report¹⁶:

- Hubert Hasenauer (President's Nominee advising on resource mobilization) highlighted key emerging issues for forest-related research cooperation in the region, including bio-economy, urban forestry, digital forestry and smart agriculture (or "digital farming"). He also communicated progress in establishing the Austrian-African Research Network Africa-UniNet and highlighted the new "European Universities" alliance for promoting education in sustainability.
- Olga Shaytarova (President's Nominee for liaison with Russia) focused her report on her activities related to preparing the first IUFRO Regional Conference "Sustaining the Forests of Russia and Eurasia: Management, Innovation, Conservation and Restoration" in Moscow, Russia on 24-26 September 2021. The 1st Announcement had been distributed (see also http://mf.bmstu.ru/iufro-conf_2021). She also communicated that the University of Saint Petersburg was pleased and ready to host the IUFRO Enlarged Board meeting before the regional conference.
- Erich Gomes Schaitza (President's Nominee for liaison with Latin America) communicated plans to work with Latin American members of the IC and Enlarged Board to define special issues for in-depth cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Xiao Wenfa (President's Nominee for liaison with China) emphasized the challenge and opportunities for greater collaboration and extension between many organizations based in China and IUFRO, that forestry issues were of great importance in China and provided an opportunity to make a global contribution.
- Kugbo Shim (President's Nominee for liaison with Korea) focused on expanding regional activities and communicated plans to establish a new Northeast Asian forest research network which could eventually take the form of an IUFRO Chapter (see also sub-section on "Regional chapters" below). Efforts will be made to promote Korean scientists' participation in the regional conference in Russia 2021.
- Wubalem Tadesse (President's Nominee for liaison with Africa) communicated about the preparations for the Management Committee meeting in Ethiopia, originally planned for September 2020, postponed to April 2021.

¹⁵ See document "Terms of Reference of President's Nominees – Board document 11.1" posted on the Internet

¹⁶ See document "Compilation of written reports by President's Nominees – Board document 11.2" posted on the Internet

The President acknowledged the contributions of the President's Nominees and emphasized the importance of good collaboration on the regional level. This was particularly important for developing joint topics and initiatives and cross-sectoral cooperation on the broader IUFRO level.

- Elena Paoletti (President's Nominee and Chair of the Honours and Awards Committee, HAC) informed the Board on her plans for constituting the membership of the HAC and reiterated that she had invited the Divisions to nominate, - analogous to the process related to the CSC, - one to two candidates per Division and by IFSA for HAC by 15 October. She also summarized the tasks of the HAC related to preparing recommendations to the Board on the selection of IUFRO award winners, including Congress Awards (Scientific Achievement Award, SAA; Outstanding Doctoral Research Award, ODRA; IUFRO Student Award for Excellence in Forest Sciences, ISA) and permanent awards (Distinguished Service Award, DSA); Special Recognition Award (SRA) and Honorary Membership (final approval by the IC). She also mentioned the task of establishing presidential awards and publication awards, and that the deadline for the selection of the awards is 2022.

Discussions of the new HAC would include ensuring balance between scientific excellence, geographic affiliation and gender during the selection process; challenges had been noted earlier regarding the interpretation of award guidelines and the balance between social and biophysical sciences.

Actions 10 and 11:

- *By 15 October 2020, each Division and IFSA to submit to the HAC Chair Elena Paoletti one to two candidates per Division and IFSA for the Honours and Awards Committee, considering gender and geographical balance; and*
- *HAC Chair, in consultation with the President, to make the final selection of HAC members for approval by the Board by electronic ballot in November 2020;*

Regional Chapters

Michael Kleine (IUFRO Deputy Executive Director and Coordinator of the IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities, SPDC) emphasized the importance of scientific collaboration across various levels, including at regional level. In this context, he referred to the IUFRO Statutes and Internal Regulations and the provisions for regional collaboration in the form of IUFRO Chapters (Statutes Article XIII)¹⁷. There were currently two formal established IUFRO Chapters:

- The Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), approved as IUFRO Chapter in 1995; and
- The Northeast Asia Forest Forum (NEAFF), approved as an IUFRO Chapter in 2005.

M. Kleine further explained that the level of interaction and cooperation with these two chapters has varied over time. In the past, APAFRI and the IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities had collaborated closely in strengthening research in the Asia-Pacific region. More recently, the collaboration of APAFRI within the IUFRO framework has decreased significantly. There was no information available about the activities of NEAFF in recent years. Partially, the reason could also be that IUFRO has not done its part in requiring regular reporting by Chapters and coordination regarding work programs.

¹⁷ Chapters comprise groupings of Member Organizations or Individual Members within a geographic region that seek closer collaboration within the IUFRO framework. Chapters are approved by the Board. Each Chapter is required to implement the mission and aims of the Union in defined geopolitical areas. Subject to agreement of the Board, a Chapter may focus on specified subjects or fields of regional importance. The Chair of a Chapter is nominated by its members and approved by the IUFRO Board. Chapters should develop scientific programmes, regional meetings and collaborative agreements between members within the region. The Statutes require the Chapter Chair to report in writing to the Board and present a working programme for the Board's information and consideration.

Thus, the IUFRO Management Committee had discussed the collaboration with regional Chapters in its last meeting, and recommended carrying out a review of the existing IUFRO Chapters based on the provisions of the IUFRO Statutes and Internal Regulations. An essential element of the review would be to verify if the Chapters mention IUFRO in their respective strategies and work programs, and to what extent IUFRO units and officeholders have been involved in their implementation. Each Chapter would be given an opportunity to contribute to the review.

Action 12:

- *The Management Committee, with the assistance of IUFRO HQ, to carry out a review of IUFRO's Regional Chapters and to provide a report to the Board at its next meeting in September 2021;*

12 Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives

Michael Kleine (Deputy Executive Director and Coordinator of IUFRO-SPDC) introduced this agenda item. He presented highlights from the written reports ¹⁸ of the Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives (SPPs). More particularly, he acknowledged the recent collaboration agreement established with the Austrian Federal Centre for Forests (BFW) for the Special Programme Directors' Forum; he informed the Board that the Global Forest Experts Panels (GFEP) programme had entered into a five-year partnership and funding agreement with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and would launch its global assessment report on forest and poverty in October 2020; World Forests, Society and Environment (IUFRO-WFSE) was planning to work on restoring policy practices and impact; and the Special Programme Development of Capacities (IUFRO-SPDC) had successfully sponsored and involved IUFRO member organizations in pre-Congress training workshops and the Scientists Assistance Program (SAP) in Curitiba.

M. Kleine reported also on the virtual pre-Board meeting of President's Nominees and Coordinators of SPPs held on 28 May 2020. In this context, it was noted that PNs act as connectors of regions with the global IUFRO network and provide opportunities for meetings, training workshops and back-to-back meetings in the regions. Other recommendations put forward related towards enhancing communication among PNs and SPPs for developing joint topics and projects. Another pre-Board meeting of PNs and SPPs Coordinators was likely to take place in 2021.

M. Kleine also reported on the current situation of the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) and reiterated the decision by the Board taken at its last meeting to set up a review group for GFIS. Due to rapidly changing developments in information management, it has become difficult for GFIS to keep up with the pace of the technological development and to mobilize support for its information service.

During the past months, IUFRO HQ has gained experience with new state-of-the-art technologies such as semantic search in the context of a new joint project on forest education. Such expertise was also relevant in the context of the GFIS review. As a consequence, there was a need to obtain additional guidance on how to ensure the value of GFIS in the future. Therefore, the Management Committee at its last meeting recommended carrying the action from the last Board forward and to report on the results of this review at the next Board meeting in September 2021.

¹⁸ See document "Compilation of reports by Coordinators of Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives – Board document 12.1" posted on the Internet

Actions 13 and 14:

- *IUFRO HQ, in consultation with the President and the Management Committee, to establish a group of experts to review the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS);*
- *The GFIS review expert group to report its findings to the IUFRO Board at its meeting in September 2021;*

13 Strategic partnerships, international cooperation and IUFRO in International Processes

J. Parrotta informed the Board that the President, Vice-Presidents, IUFRO HQ and members of the IUFRO Board had continued to participate very actively in international activities with partners and as part of several international processes. The comprehensive report¹⁹ prepared for the meeting showed the breadth of IUFRO's involvement in a broad range of partnerships, processes, and organizations.

Traditionally, IUFRO has established agreements of closer cooperation with some organizations in the form of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). In this context, A. Buck informed the Board of an envisaged collaboration with XPRIZE, a non-profit organization that designs and organizes high-profile international competitions²⁰. Informal collaboration began in 2018 when XPRIZE contacted IUFRO HQ to invite forest scientists to contribute to their "Future of Forests Initiative", which seeks to identify necessary breakthroughs for achieving a better future for forest and humankind. The XPRIZE foundation has designed and operated 17 competitions in the domain areas of Space, Oceans, Learning, Health, Energy, Environment, Transportation, Safety and Robotics. Forest-related prizes such as the USD 10 Million Rainforest XPRIZE is now active.

Action 15:

- *The Management Committee to review the draft Memorandum of Understanding with XPRIZE and submit a recommendation to the Board for possible adoption of the MoU by electronic Board ballot vote;*

IUFRO HQ has been hosted by the Government of Austria since 1973. The Government of Austria, through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT), provides core funding for its operations and office space for IUFRO HQ.

Gerfried Gruber (Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism, BMLRT) addressed the IUFRO Board on behalf of Maria Patek (IUFRO host country representative) and reiterated Austria's commitment of providing state-of-the-art office space and financial support for core operations of IUFRO and for specific programmatic activities. He expressed Austria's satisfaction with the fruitful cooperation and encouraged IUFRO to enhance its research focus in support of the development of attractive forest based products, generation of jobs in rural areas, bio-economy and contribution to global climate targets. Noting the increasing significance of international forest-related topics in the frame of the European Union, such as halting global deforestation and forest degradation, he also encouraged greater involvement of IUFRO at the European level, feeding its specific expertise into these processes. He thanked J. Parrotta and the members of the IUFRO Enlarged Board for their professional leadership,

¹⁹ See document "Report on IUFRO's participation in and contribution to International Processes – Board document 13.1" posted on the Internet

²⁰The XPRIZE foundation has designed and operated 17 competitions in the domain areas of space, oceans, learning, health, energy, environment, transportation, safety and robotics. Forest-related prizes such as the USD 10 Million Rainforest XPRIZE are now active or in development.

engagement and invaluable contribution to forests, science and society, which was an indispensable basis for all political efforts.

Thereafter, J. Parrotta drew attention to the long-lasting partnership of IUFRO with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) which dates back to a MoU signed in 1947. It was noted that the importance of this collaboration is reflected by the fact that FAO is recognized in the IUFRO Status as one of only two organizations with permanent observer status on the IUFRO Board.

FAO Assistant-Director General Hiroto Mitsugi emphasized in his statement that IUFRO was one of FAO's most active collaborators and an important partner in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), including being in the lead for two joint CPF Initiatives, the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) and the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP). FAO was proud of having cooperated in several GFEP assessment studies, including as a host of scoping meetings in Rome. He also expressed appreciation for the ongoing close collaboration with IUFRO and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in a joint global forest education project. Moreover he acknowledged that the IUFRO President was chairing the CPF Consultative Group in support of organizing the XV FAO World Forestry Congress and serving as member of the FAO World Forestry Congress Advisory Committee, thereby bridging the FAO World Forestry Congress 2021 and the IUFRO World Congress 2024. On behalf of FAO, he looked forward to intensifying the cooperation in the future.

IUFRO also collaborates closely with the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA). The MoU between IUFRO and IFSA dates back to 2002 and had been renewed last year. It has been a tradition for IUFRO President to participate in the annual International Forestry Students' Symposiums (IFSS), and IFSA's President and Liaison Officer have joined the annual IUFRO Board meetings. Last year, IUFRO's International Council (IC) decided to make IFSA a permanent observer on the IUFRO Board, a privilege previously granted to only one other organization (FAO).

Alina Lehikoinen, newly elected IFSA President, stated that the past IUFRO World Congress 2019 in Curitiba had been a success also for IFSA with participation of more than 10 delegates, multiple opportunities for cooperating in Congress activities and organizing side events. This ensured momentum and continuity of joint IUFRO and IFSA activities. She personally joined an IFSA workshop at IUFRO HQ in February where she got the opportunity to strengthen relationship with IUFRO.

Florian Kraxner, President of the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) and Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Services and Management Program (ESM) at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) referred to the Memorandum of Understanding established between IUFRO and IBFRA in 2014 and highlighted key developments in IBFRA, such as the "Insight process" on "Sustainable boreal forest management – challenges and opportunities for climate change mitigation". He acknowledged with appreciation the close collaboration with IUFRO and partners in organizing the 18th IBFRA Conference in Laxenburg, Austria, in October 2018. IBFRA was pleased to act as an international partner of IUFRO for the forthcoming Regional Conference in Moscow in September 2021.

14 Welcome Day 3

J. Parrotta briefly summarized the main discussions of the second meeting day.

15 IUFRO Strategy

J. Parrotta introduced the agenda item and reminded the Enlarged Board that work on the IUFRO Strategy²¹ had begun three years ago with the presentation of the Review Panel report and resulting recommendations by the Freiburg Board meeting in September 2017. Since then, the process has involved a diverse set of groups within the IUFRO network, including the IUFRO Management Committee, Board and International Council, and external stakeholders. The Board has therefore had multiple opportunities to provide comment and valuable input.

At its meeting in September 2019, the Board had concluded that the Strategy document would first and foremost serve an internal use and focus on IUFRO's institutional goals and objectives, to be supported by an accompanying Strategy Action plan with actions, actors and performance indicators.

J. Parrotta summarized that, as agreed by the Board in December 2019, IUFRO HQ under the guidance of the President has prepared the final draft version of the IUFRO Strategy. The IUFRO Management Committee discussed the document at its virtual meeting in June 2020 and recommended to the Board to approve the Strategy document. J. Parrotta invited the IUFRO Board to carry the following motion:

MOTION 5:

To approve the IUFRO Strategy document as presented to the Enlarged Board

Seconded by Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch.

The motion was carried unanimously.

In the same context, J. Parrotta presented the Strategy Action Plan²² as a tool for implementing the Strategy and monitoring progress. The Strategy Action Plan currently includes 57 actions that would enable IUFRO's governing bodies, units, officeholders and HQ to effectively address the goals and objectives of the Strategy within the next five-year period from 2020 to 2024.

The Strategy Action Plan, prepared by IUFRO HQ with guidance by the President and the Management Committee, had been circulated among Enlarged Board members, Task Forces, and some Research Groups and Working Parties for comments and feedback. In fact, extensive input had been received and was incorporated in the current Strategy Action Plan that had been discussed in detail at the virtual Management Committee meeting on 2 June 2020.

In the discussion, the Enlarged Board considered how to implement the Strategy Action Plan in a feasible way. In this context, reference was made also to earlier input regarding new positions like junior officeholders, communication officers, and mentoring opportunities. There was common agreement that the Action Plan should be considered as a "living document" and the starting point for Divisions and other IUFRO units for translating it more directly into specific actions appropriate to such units and thereby achieving better buy-in and commitment by IUFRO units. However, these discussions focusing on concrete implementation and ranking of priorities should be organized within smaller units, including for example at the level of Divisional RGs and WPs.

MOTION 6:

To approve the IUFRO Strategy Action Plan 2020-2024 as presented to the Enlarged Board

Seconded by Donald Hodges.

The motion was carried unanimously.

²¹See document "IUFRO Strategy document – Board document 15.1" posted on the Internet

²²See document "IUFRO Strategy Action Plan – Board document 15.2" posted on the Internet

Actions 16 and 17:

- *IUFRO HQ to group actions from the Strategy Action Plan according to Divisions and other “units responsible” listed in the action plan in order to facilitate further consideration of these actions by these respective units;*
- *Divisions and other actors to discuss their respective group of actions and prioritize actions for actual and concrete implementation; including at the next virtual meeting of Division Coordinators in December 2020.*

Enhancing participation in IUFRO activities

J. Parrotta reiterated that the COVID-19 pandemic had an enormous impact on people, societies, and economies worldwide. IUFRO collaborative activities taking place all over the globe, including scientific meetings and conferences, thematic networking and capacity development, have been significantly affected. Most of the IUFRO meetings scheduled for 2020 have been either cancelled or postponed to 2021 or later, while some have proceeded as virtual events.

Against this background, the President invited the Enlarged Board to provide guidance on the broad question on how to enhance participation in IUFRO activities in a changing and uncertain world, including potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. He presented questions from a “starter paper”²³ *Enhancing participation in IUFRO activities in a changing world* as a basis for structuring the discussion:

- What will collaboration in IUFRO look like in the future?
- What are the challenges and opportunities?
- What approaches, models and tools should be developed?
- And what could be the next steps?

He gratefully also acknowledged the effort made by a group of officeholders led by Jens-Peter Skovsgaard (Coordinator Division 1) and Teresa Fonseca (Deputy Coordinator Division 1) towards preparing draft best practice guidelines²⁴ for organizing, hosting and reporting IUFRO online events.

The Board discussed pro and cons of virtual meetings, webinars and other tools used to substitute physical meetings in these critical times. Digital meetings and hybrid events were essential for keeping the momentum of activities in the network and provided an opportunity to promote broader and more equitable participation in terms of geography, age and gender, with additional benefits related to reduction of carbon footprint and adaptation to pandemic limitations; however, they cannot completely replace face-to-face meetings in maintaining the spirit of collaboration in the long run.

The Board also noted that there was urgency for IUFRO in reacting on the COVID-19 situation and to consider innovative ways and new formats for keeping in touch within the network and for increasing communication especially with the younger generation of scientists, with stakeholders and possibly also with the broader public. In this context, the need was pointed out to find committed individuals who allocate sufficient time to communication activities in addition to their research or education work, and to enhance the use of the IUFRO brand in communicating to the outside world. Furthermore, the aspect of enhancing equity in forest science was raised in the discussion, e.g. by having IUFRO Units develop education tools and online courses.

²³See document “Enhancing participation in IUFRO activities in a changing world – Board document 15.3” posted on the Internet

²⁴ Draft practice guidelines have been circulated to selected members of the Management Committee and Board shortly before the virtual Enlarged Board meeting

Action 18:

- *Based on the outcomes of the virtual Enlarged Board meeting, IUFRO HQ with guidance from the President to prepare a consolidated summary on “how to enhance participation in IUFRO activities in a changing world” for further elaboration by the Management Committee and Enlarged Board;*

16 IUFRO Communication

J. Parrotta introduced the agenda item by highlighting that effective communication was essential for IUFRO to achieve its mission. Therefore, the provision of enhancing communications – in various forms – was recognized in the IUFRO Strategy (Goal 2 of the IUFRO Strategy was to increase equity, inclusiveness and communication), and was important for achieving almost all other goals and objectives of the Strategy.

A. Buck informed the Board about the IUFRO Strategic Communications Plan 2020-2024²⁵. The document was the outcome of a meeting on IUFRO communications with the President, members of IUFRO HQ and external communication experts held at IUFRO HQ in January 2020. It was linked to the IUFRO Strategy Action Plan and was meant to provide internal guidance to IUFRO in the next four years. As stated in the Strategic Communication Plan, in order to be successful, IUFRO HQ strongly relied on the support of IUFRO officeholders, especially Board and International Council members, to help mobilize the network and secure the necessary funds to implement the Plan.

In the discussion, the Board commented on the fact that the strategic communications plan had been drafted largely before the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus adaptations and thoughts on a more long-term perspective regarding virtual meetings, hybrid meetings etc. might be included.

A. Buck then outlined next steps regarding the redesign of the IUFRO webpage. He stated that the webpage was IUFRO’s most important information platform. As the main entry point to IUFRO, it also serves as a space for officeholders, members and relevant partners to share information and, it also provides a repository of all IUFRO-related information.

A. Buck explained the rationale for the redesign²⁶ of the webpage, the main aspects and goals, and next steps. Since May 2020, Divisions, Task Forces and President’s Nominees were encouraged to discuss features and options for the redesign in virtual meetings. In June, an online survey provided written feedback and input by close to 100 officeholders and communicators. A. Buck emphasized that, based on these contributions, the redesign would have the following main objectives:

- A more horizontal design of the website
- A redesigned landing page as a showcase for IUFRO
- A more dynamic approach to IUFRO Division unit pages
- Bringing the Member Organizations to the fore
- Integrating new technologies to enhance user experience
- Better integrate the currently separate IUFRO database and other tools into the website.

The related next steps would be:

- IUFRO HQ to develop specifications for the new website, to be sent to at least two web development companies with the request for a technical proposal and a bid/quote to choose from.
- November/December: HQ to select company for website redesign;

²⁵ See document “IUFRO Strategic Communications Plan 2020-2024 – Board item 16.1” posted on the Internet

²⁶ See document “IUFRO Redesign of IUFRO webpage – roadmap 2020/21 – Board item 16.2” posted on the Internet

- Beginning of 2021: HQ to facilitate revision and begin implementing redesign;
- Mid-late 2021: key features of redesign are operational, and the redesigned webpage is broadly communicated to internal and external audiences.

A. Buck noted that the redesign has also significant resource implications. While the recurring expenditures for web-maintenance amounted to approximately EUR 25,000 per year and were covered by the regular budget, the redesign of the webpage has not been included. Based on experiences gained with previous website relaunch, the total costs of redesigning the website were estimated at approximately EUR 100,000. The majority (about two thirds) of these expenditures would relate to the update of the Content Management System and the update of software tools for all the functionalities on the IUFRO website (e.g. newsletters, forms, calendar of events, picture galleries, etc.). The remaining expenditures would cover concept and design as well as general project work, including testing, meetings with designers, going live, etc.

The Board welcomed the project to renew and modernize the IUFRO webpage. In the discussion it was recommended to increase the amount of dynamic content, to consider ways and means of bringing publications and expertise of officeholders more upfront, to achieve even better integration with IUFRO's very successful range of social media, and to use maps and other graphic, e.g. to better reflect visually the global nature of IUFRO's membership and activities. Furthermore, appropriate measures should be taken by IUFRO HQ not to lose historical data and connections to other sites during the redesign. It was also suggested to involve professional communicators and experts in designing this new website; it was noted to look at the user statistics when considering the new pages and design.

The President then presented the following motion.

MOTION 7:

Based on the recommendation by the Management Committee, to allocate up to EUR 100.000 from the Strategic Fund to the redesign 2020/21 of the IUFRO Webpage

Seconded by Ecki Brockerhoff.

The motion was carried unanimously.

17 IUFRO Finances and Fundraising

Astrid Toppel (Finances Officer at IUFRO HQ) presented the overview²⁷ of the financial figures of the audited Annual Account 2019, the budget status 2020 and the budget proposal 2021. The presentation included a graph showing trends of financial income and expenses of IUFRO finances in the period 2015-2019. Copies of the official report of financial auditor Grant-Thornton "IUFRO Union (Secretariat, Programmes and Initiatives) Annual Account 2019" were available for inspection by Board members and could be provided electronically.

MOTION 8:

To approve the income and expenditures of the Union in 2019 and release the President and Executive Director of legal obligations deriving from financial issues and the annual account 2019.

Seconded by Donald Hodges.

The motion was carried unanimously.

²⁷ See document "IUFRO Annual Account 2019 (Board item 17.1), and Budget Status 2020 and Budget Proposal 2021 (Board item 17.2) consolidated into one document – Board item 17.1" - PPT presented

The steady increase in the income of the Union as a whole was acknowledged, however, there was a need to capture additional income opportunities from project-specific funding for core HQ activities, such as communications.

A. Tippel then informed the Board about the status of the budget 2020 and about the proposed budget for 2021.

MOTION 9:

To approve the budget proposal for 2021.

Seconded by Donald Hodges.

The motion was carried unanimously.

A. Tippel also informed the Board about the development of IUFRO's investments. As a non-for-profit organization IUFRO invested only in so called guilt-edged assets. In accordance with the Statutes, the Management Committee oversees the finances of the Union and verifies the use of funds according to the aims of the Union. Accordingly, changes to the investment portfolio are approved by the Management Committee.

A. Buck communicated that additional information about fundraising activities by IUFRO HQ was included in the report of the Executive Director (see agenda item 5, Board document 5.2). Compared to the previous year the number of donors and the amounts mobilized have increased.

The Board congratulated IUFRO's fund-raising and acknowledged the mobilization of funds for a multi-year SPDC project on forest landscape restoration from the philanthropic "Audemars-Watkins Foundation" of Switzerland which could eventually be a model for similar cooperative arrangements in the future.

Referring to suggestions from the pre-Board meetings, the Board enquired about possibilities to use potentially unused funds for purchasing on-line licenses for virtual meetings to be used by IUFRO officeholders. A. Buck agreed to provide relevant information at the next Management Committee meeting.

Action 19:

- *IUFRO HQ to further enquire about options for purchasing on-line licenses that could be shared for holding virtual meetings under the IUFRO umbrella; and inform the Management Committee accordingly and prepare related recommendation for approval by the Board;*

18 IUFRO Events

J. Parrotta updated the Board about the preliminary schedule²⁸ of Management Committee and Board meetings up to the year 2024.

Special attention was drawn to the Regional Conference in Moscow and connected Board meeting in Saint Petersburg, Russia in 2021. Olga Shaytarova had already provided information on the previous day (see *agenda item 11*). The 1st Announcement of the 2021 Regional Conference in Moscow has been distributed to IUFRO officeholders and community in June 2020. More information and the call for abstracts would be distributed before the end of the year.

²⁸ See document "Schedule of IUFRO Board, MC and other meetings – Board document 18.1" posted on the Internet

Sandra Luque (Coordinator Division 8) reported that unfortunately the regional conference proposed for Montpellier, France 2022 and for which preparations had already largely advanced, had to be cancelled due to current planning uncertainties.

Other options for all-Division meetings or regional conferences, for example Rome, Italy, or Vienna, Austria, would be under discussion. With regard to the schedule of Management Committee (MC) meetings, concern was raised on the likelihood of planning a Management Committee meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2021.

Action 20:

- *IUFRO HQ to further explore with potential hosts proposals of organizing a regional conference in connection with a Board meeting or separate all-Division meetings in the year 2022, and provide detailed information to the Board as soon as it becomes available.*

19 Other items and evaluation of the meeting

J. Parrotta invited the Board to provide feedback on the conduct of the meeting by using the feedback survey that would be circulated immediately after the meeting, and to return it to HQ within a week.

Renate Prüller (IUFRO HQ) informed the Board of her retirement in October 2020. She commented about her IUFRO experience and expressed personal thanks to the Board, the President and the IUFRO HQ staff in Vienna. Andre Purret (former GFEP Project Manager) will succeed her in strategic positions, such as supporting the Management Committee, International Council and IUFRO Board.

20 Closure of the meeting

The IUFRO President thanked the members of the Enlarged Board, IUFRO HQ staff, and all participants for their active contributions to the meeting.

Annex I: List of participants in alphabetical order

IUFRO Enlarged Board:

Andreas Bolte – Coordinator, Task Force on *Transforming Forest Landscapes for Future Climates and Human Well-Being*
Purabi Bose – Deputy Coordinator, Division 6 – Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry
Eckehard Brockerhoff – Coordinator, Division 7 – Forest Health
Alexander Buck – IUFRO Executive Director
Woodam Chung – Coordinator, Division 3 – Forest Operations Engineering and Management
Janice Cooke – Deputy Coordinator, Division 2 – Physiology and Genetics
Ellyn Damayanti – Deputy Coordinator, Division 6 – Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry
Giovanbattista de Dato – Coordinator, Task Force on *Strengthening Mediterranean Nursery Systems for Forest Reproductive Material Procurement to Adapt to the Effects of Climate Change*
Bianca Eskelson – Deputy Coordinator, Division 4 – Forest Assessment, Modelling and Management
Teresa De Jesus Fidalgo Fonseca – Deputy Coordinator, Division 1 – Silviculture
Monica Gabay – Coordinator, Division 9 – Forest Policy and Economics
Santiago C. González-Martínez – Coordinator, Division 2 – Physiology and Genetics
Gerfried Gruber – (representing Maria Patek) IUFRO Headquarters host country representative
Henrik Hartmann – Coordinator, Task Force on *Monitoring Global Tree Mortality Patterns and Trends*
Hubert Hasenauer – President’s Nominee advising on resource mobilization
Donald Hodges – Coordinator, Division 4 – Forest Assessment, Modelling and Management
Fredrik Ingermarson – Chair, Congress Organizing Committee (COC), IUFRO World Congress 2024
Pia Katila – Coordinator, Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment (WFSE)
Maartje Johanna Klapwijk – Deputy Coordinator, Division 7 – Forest Health
Michael Kleine – IUFRO Deputy Executive Director; Coordinator, IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities (SPDC)
Daniela Kleinschmit – IUFRO Vice-President Divisions
Cecil C. Konijnendijk van den Bosch – Coordinator, Division 6 – Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry
Volodymyr Kravets – Liaison Officer to IUFRO, International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA)
Alina Lehtikoinen – President, International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA)
Gun Lidestav – Coordinator, Task Force on *Gender Equality in Forestry*
Jinlong Liu – Deputy Coordinator, Division 9 – Forest Policy and Economics
Shirong Liu – IUFRO Vice-President Task Forces, Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives
Sandra S. Luque – Coordinator, Division 8 – Forest Environment
Ahmad Maryudi – Deputy Coordinator, Division 9 – Forest Policy and Economics
Peter Mayer – Coordinator, IUFRO Special Programme Directors’ Forum
Hiroto Mitsugi – Assistant-Director General, FAO
Alex Onatunji – Co-Coordinator, Joint IUFRO-IFSA Task Force on *Forest Education*
Christophe Orazio – Coordinator, Task Force on *Resilient Planted Forests Serving Society & Bioeconomy*
Elena Paoletti – Chair, Congress Scientific Committee (CSC), IUFRO World Congress 2024; Chair, Honours and Awards Committee (HAC); Deputy Coordinator, Division 8 – Forest Environment
Pil Sun Park – Deputy Coordinator, Division 1 – Silviculture
John A. Parrotta – IUFRO President
Tod Ramsfield – Deputy Coordinator, Division 7 – Forest Health
Sandra Rodríguez-Pineros – Co-Coordinator, Joint IUFRO-IFSA Task Force on *Forest Education*
Pekka Saranpää – Coordinator, Division 5 – Forest Products
Erich Gomes Schaitza – President’s Nominee for liaison with Latin America
Olga Shaytarova – President’s Nominee for liaison with Russia
Kugbo Shim – President’s Nominee for liaison with Korea
Jens Peter Skovsgaard – Coordinator, Division 1 – Silviculture

Taylor Stein – Deputy Coordinator, Division 6 – Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry

Xiaohua (Adam) Wei – Coordinator, Task Force on *Forests and Water Interactions in a Changing Environment*

Xiao Wenfa – President's Nominee for liaison with China

Marjana Westergren – Deputy Coordinator, Division 2 – Physiology and Genetics

Christoph Wildburger – Coordinator, Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) Programme

Michael J. Wingfield – IUFRO Immediate Past President

Tadesse Wubalem – President's Nominee for liaison with Africa

Invited participants:

Maristela Avila Abrantes – Congress Organizing Committee (COC), IUFRO World Congress 2019

Joberto V. Freitas - Co-Chair, Congress Organizing Committee (COC), IUFRO World Congress 2019

Karin Hornay – Congress Organizing Committee (COC), IUFRO World Congress 2024

Björn Hånell – Congress Organizing Committee (COC), IUFRO World Congress 2024

Florian Kraxner – IBFRA/IIASA representative

Patricia Pova de Mattos – Congress Organizing Committee (COC), IUFRO World Congress 2019

Robert Nasi - CIFOR representative

Yeda Maria Malheiros de Oliveira – Co-Chair, Congress Organizing Committee (COC), IUFRO World Congress 2019

IUFRO Headquarters and technical staff:

Brigitte Burger – Web Management and Social Media, Network Communication

Janice Burns – IUFRO Thematic Networking Manager and IUFRO-SPDC Deputy Coordinator

Daniel Böhnke – IUFRO-SPDC Assistant Project Manager

Ioana Grecu – IUFRO-SPDC Junior Project Administrator

Nelson Grima – Project Manager, Global Forest Experts Panels (GFEP) Programme

Lena Lackner – Project Manager, Global Forest Experts Panels (GFEP) Programme

Renate Pruessler – Senior Officer for Strategic Support and Networking Services

Andre Purret – IUFRO Operations Manager

Eva Schimpf – Membership Services, Project Management, Translation Services

Astrid Toppel – Finances and Administration

Gerda Wolfrum – Coordinator, Communication and Public Relations

Ursula Soukup – Technical support and assistance