

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
62ND IUFRO BOARD MEETING**

27-28 March 2023

04 May 2023



In-person participants of the IUFRO Board Meeting in the garden in front of ICFRE Headquarters in Dehradun.



Part of the virtual participants of the IUFRO Board Meeting.

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The IUFRO Board met from 27-28 March 2023 in Dehradun, India in a hybrid format. In-person participants gathered at the premises of the host of the meeting, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) Headquarters in the campus of the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun. Virtual participants connected via the video-conferencing tool 'Zoom'. The hybrid meeting was chaired by IUFRO President John Parrotta. The list of participants can be found in Annex I.

The Management Committee met in-person on 25 March 2023 prior to the Board Meeting in New Delhi.

1. Opening of the 62nd IUFRO Board Meeting

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

J. Parrotta invited the Director-General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) Shri Arun Singh Rawat to provide his welcoming remarks on behalf of the host of the Board Meeting and accompanying International Symposium. He welcomed the participants to ICFRE Headquarters and noted that ICFRE is the largest organization responsible for forestry research in India, including 8 institutes and 5 research centers and covering both traditional subjects and emerging areas of research, such as climate change, eco-restoration and forest fires. Its mandate is to organize, direct and manage research and education in India's forestry sector, including in cooperation with international organizations such as IUFRO. In 2019 ICFRE was designated as the country's first Centre of Excellence to address land degradation and promote South-South cooperation. Lastly, he wished participants a great meeting and an International Symposium, to be hosted by ICFRE back-to-back to the Board Meeting on 29-30 March. J. Parrotta thanked A.S. Rawat for his remarks.

J. Parrotta then invited IUFRO Host Country Representative Maria Patek (Director-General, Forestry and Sustainability, Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, BML) to provide welcome remarks. She noted that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Government of Austria hosting IUFRO Headquarters, reflecting the high importance attached to forest science and its role in supporting informed decisions in forest policy and practice. This was important especially against the background of ever increasing and more diverse demands and expectations on forests. She ended by reiterating Austria's continued commitment to IUFRO and wished everyone a successful week of meetings. The Chair thanked M. Patek for her kind remarks and the continued support provided by the Ministry.

The Chair then gave the floor to the Assistant Director General (External Project) of ICFRE Dr. Rajesh Sharma, as the main contact responsible for the organization of the Board Meeting and International Symposium. Dr. Sharma welcomed the participants and handed over flowers as a token of appreciation to the IUFRO President J. Parrotta.

J. Parrotta thanked A.S. Rawat and R. Sharma for hosting the meeting in ICFRE, including the evening reception on the previous day.

J. Parrotta communicated regrets of a voting member of the Board, the President's Nominee for Russia Olga Shaytarova, and the Task Force Coordinators Henrik Hartmann, Jim Chamberlain and Adam Wei.

Alexander Buck (IUFRO Executive Director) provided information about the organizational housekeeping, conduct and technicalities of the hybrid meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda and call for additions

Documents:

- Board 3/2023 Doc 2.1 Revised draft Agenda (IUFRO HQ)
- Board 3/2023 Doc 2.2 Annotated draft Agenda (IUFRO HQ)

J. Parrotta called for any changes or additions to the agenda. No proposals for changes or additions were suggested and the Chair proposed the following motion:

MOTION 1:

- To adopt the agenda of the 62nd IUFRO Board Meeting;

Seconded by Mike Wingfield.

The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Approval of draft minutes of the 61st IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting in September 2022, and pending actions

Documents:

- Board 3/2023 Doc 3.1 Draft Minutes of the 61st IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting (IUFRO HQ)
- Board 3/2023 Doc 3.2 Implementation of Actions of the 61st IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting

The Chair invited the Board to approve the minutes of the hybrid 61st IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting, held on 19-20 September 2022. Daniela Kleinschmit proposed the following motion:

MOTION 2:

- To approve the Minutes of the hybrid 61st IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting;

Seconded by Mike Wingfield.

The motion was carried unanimously.

A. Buck noted that the Board had adopted, in its meeting in September 2022, a record number of actions – 32 actions in total. He added that the timeline of actions varied and not all had to be implemented by this Board Meeting. He continued by informing the Board that 16 actions had been fully implemented and 13 actions would be addressed or implemented in the course of this meeting. One action can be implemented only after July 2023 and two actions related to Divisions (Actions 12 and 16) are pending. A list of implementation of actions was included in the meeting documentation (Doc. 3.2). The Board took note of the status of implementation of the actions of the 61st Enlarged Board Meeting.

4. Reports by IUFRO President and Executive Director

Documents:

- Board 3/2023 Doc 4.1 Report of the President (J. Parrotta)
- Board 3/2023 Doc 4.2 Report of the Executive Director (A. Buck)

Both written reports to the Board were considered as read and only special highlights were provided by the presenters.

J. Parrotta noted that despite the short time since the last Board Meeting, he had continued to be very busy. Main activities were related to the preparations for the current Board Meeting and the many issues to be covered during this meeting, and organization of the connected International Symposium on Symposium on Intersectoral Cooperation for Resilient Landscapes 2023, whose Symposium Scientific

Committee he co-chaired.

A. Buck clarified that his report had to be considered as a report of the entire IUFRO HQ. He noted that IUFRO HQ currently consists of 15 permanent staff from 8 countries (Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, Germany, Nepal, Spain and South Africa), plus a Senior Scientist coordinating the WFSE project from Finland. Activity highlights included the successful All-IUFRO Conference in September 2022, the preparatory work by IUFRO HQ in close collaboration with the President and the ICFRE in organizing this Board Meeting and the connected International Symposium on Intersectoral Cooperation for Resilient Landscapes, and the organization of a Forum on Ukraine Forest Science and Education, to be held from 27-28 June 2023 in Laxenburg, Austria, jointly hosted by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), IUFRO and the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine (NUBIP).

Highlights from the partnership activities included the 2nd Think Tank Meeting in November 2022 and the initiated study on the “Future of Goods and Services from Central and Northern European Forests” in the frame of the IUFRO-Mondi Partnership “Teaming Up 4 Forests”. Additionally, the proposal by IUFRO for a new project “Towards a Global Wood Policy Platform”, involving partners from FAO, BOKU and IUFRO’s Division 5 was selected for funding by the Austrian Wood Fund in December 2022. The project is scheduled to run until September 2024.

The Board Members congratulated the President and IUFRO HQ for keeping well track of the ongoing activities and initiating new important developments.

A. Buck informed the Board about IUFRO membership developments since the last Board Meeting. 3 new Member Organizations and 8 Associate Members had joined IUFRO, while 6 Member Organizations and 10 Associate Members had withdrawn their membership.

The Chair invited the Board to approve new members. Peter Mayer proposed the following motion:

MOTION 3:

- To approve the list of new members of IUFRO (Member Organizations and Associate Members);

Seconded by Tod Ramsfield.

The motion was carried unanimously.

5. IUFRO Divisions

Documents:

- Board 3/2023 Doc 5.1 Report of the Vice-President for Divisions (D. Kleinschmit)
- Board 3/2023 Doc 5.2 Compilation of proposed changes to the structure/units and officeholders (IUFRO HQ)

Introduction by the IUFRO Vice-President for Divisions

Daniela Kleinschmit, the IUFRO Vice-President for Divisions, noted that the Division Coordinators had met three times since September 2022: virtually in September and November 2022 and in a hybrid format prior to this Board Meeting. The common work of Divisions since the last Board Meeting focused on the implementation aspects of the Co-Coordinatorship of Divisions, implementation of the IUFRO Post-2020 Strategy, and further issues such as networking in the “new normal”, cooperation with Task Forces, cross-Divisional sessions for World Congress 2024, exchanging experiences about communication officers in Divisions and strategies to respond to inactive officeholders.

D. Kleinschmit informed the Board about a new survey for officeholders aimed at mapping the experiences and expectations regarding networking in the “new normal”. The topic of Divisional communication officers needs further discussion, and an extra meeting devoted to this issue has been planned. She noted that pending action items from the last Board Meeting will be included in the agenda of the next meeting of Division Coordinators.

Action 1:

- *Pending actions from the IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting in 2022 related to Divisions (EBM Actions 12, 16 and 25) to be taken up at the next meeting of Division Coordinators;*

Report on the pre-Board meeting(s) of Division Coordinators

Woodam Chung, Coordinator of IUFRO Division 3 and the representative of Divisions in the IUFRO Management Committee, provided highlights of the discussions from the hybrid pre-Board meeting of Division Coordinators held on 26.03 in Dehradun, India.

Division Coordinators had discussed and welcomed the suggestion from the Management Committee to invite individual units to prepare work plans, but saw these work plans more as a potential internal document for the unit rather than a basis for evaluation of the unit. Discussions on this topic will continue.

Regarding collaboration between Divisions and Task Forces, it has been concluded that this would require further in-depth discussion between Task Forces and Divisions, and the topic could be looked at more closely during the first year of the next Board term. It was suggested that the timeline for the call for new Task Forces needs to be reconsidered, and that Divisions need to have greater engagement in the process, including review.

On the implementation of the dual coordinatorship of Divisions and distribution of tasks among the Co-Coordiators, the Division Coordinators agreed that this was mainly the responsibility of each Division, but general guidelines can be included in the ToR of Division Co-Coordiators. The topic will be further discussed at the pre-Board meeting of Division Coordinators in Stockholm in June 2024.

Division Coordinators had also discussed the internal Division Awards and suggested that the Honours and Awards Committee could provide general guidelines based on mapping of such existing awards.

Options for assistance funds for conference organizers was also discussed by the Division Coordinators. It was noted that this kind of support could reduce financial risks and uncertainties, as well provide more equitable opportunities for meeting organizers, and although it may not be possible to implement, it should still be looked into. Alternatively, it was suggested considering technical support for online/hybrid meetings.

Implementing IUFRO Strategy Action Plan 2020-2024

D. Kleinschmit shared overarching reflections of how the Divisions had been implementing the IUFRO Strategy Action Plan in the year 2022, based on the input submitted by all Divisions. She started by stating that the Action Plan builds the basis for Divisions reporting and great progress has been made in making the filtered Action Plan clearer and more feasible for reporting by Divisions.

Regarding the content of received input, she noted that reporting has improved overall. Divisions practice the “new normal” through online and hybrid meetings and are exploring emerging research areas. The collaboration across Divisions and with other research organizations seem to be well advanced. Early-career researchers have been engaged via junior officeholder positions in diverse ways. Gender and geographical balance, and integration of early-career researchers is developing. Participation by colleagues in underrepresented areas has been fostered through publications and events,

and new communication efforts are being explored. However, only a few Divisional activities and outputs are related specifically to education.

Options for collaborative efforts within IUFRO include developing a common structured approach to identify emerging research areas, improving communication with Task Forces, exchange of experiences regarding engagement of early-career researchers, opportunity for developing blueprint for Division Awards, developing a tool-box for communication as a common endeavour, and collaborating for transfer and outreach.

In the discussions, it was noted that the Strategy Action Plan does not allow input on emerging areas of research and this could be improved in the next Action Plan. It was suggested taking action to improve collaboration between Task Force Coordinators and Division Coordinators in the next Board term. On communication and the suggested tool-box, the potential benefit of professional guidance by IUFRO HQ was noted.

Activity highlights by Division Coordinators

All nine Division Coordinators were asked to present 1-2 highlights (1 slide) per Division regarding activities since September 2022 and plans until the World Congress 2024. Highlights included:

- *Division 1 (Jens Peter Skovsgaard)* – successful online All-Division 1 and 4 online Conference resulted in an interesting blend of presentations, including some that would not appear in a classical conference format. Many officeholders in Division 1 were less active and did not submit any input to the Strategy Action Plan - only approx. 25% of the unit coordinators reported on activities for 2022. Review of structure, units and officeholders is planned for 2023, as challenges such as apparent inactivity and lack of responsiveness continues to be evident. Some units may be at risk of being closed or in need of a new leadership.
- *Division 2 (Santiago C. González-Martínez)* – restructuring of the Division Coordination by nominating Amanda de la Torre (NAU) as one of the Co-Coordinators. Integration of a junior member Annie Biju (IFSA). Mobilization of the forest genetics and physiology community to submit session proposals for the World Congress 2024. Online symposiums organized in Japan and Serbia (IUFRO Eight International Poplar Symposium). FAO Green Book on Innovative Practices in Sustainable Management of Fast-Growing Trees (WP 2.08.04). IUFRO Conference has been planned for 20-24 November 2023 in Colonia, Uruguay on “Enhancing the performance and sustainability of eucalypt plantations to broaden their benefits” (WG 2.08.03 Improvement and Culture of Eucalypts).
- *Division 3 (Woodam Chung)* – IUFRO Division 3 Doctoral Conference (28.10-03.11.2022 in Corvallis, Oregon, USA. COFE-FORMEC-Division 3 joint conference from 4-7 October 2022 in Corvallis, Oregon – 156 participants from 24 countries; included 7 awards and 11 honourees, student flash talks, panel discussion on the future of forest engineering, dedicated session for education and full-day field trip. Major events and conferences in planning for 2023 and 2024, including COFE-FETEC International Conference in May in Arizona, Modern Technologies and Engineering in Sustainable Forest Utilization in June in Poland, Advancing Silvicultural Technology in August in Umea, Small-Scale Forestry in August in Tartu and FORMEC-FEC in September in Firenze.
- *Division 4 (Donald Hodges)* – Division Newsletter and engagement of young scientists as keywords. Event highlights include: 4.01 webinar series on Forest Mensuration and Modelling; All-Division 1 and 4 online Conference: Close to Nature Forestry; 4.01.02 – Artificial Intelligence and Ecosystem Management; 4.05.03/9.05.03 – Contribution of Managerial

Economics, Accounting and Cross-Sectoral Policy Analysis to Climate Neutrality and Forest Management.

- *Division 5 (Pekka Saranpää)* – World Wood Day 2023: Symposium on Wood in Cultural Heritage. Finalising the All-Division 5 conference: The Forest Treasure Chest – Delivering Outcomes for Everyone (4-8 June 2023, Cairns, Australia). All units are active and dual-coordinator candidates for the next term were selected. Altogether 29 session proposals were submitted for the World Congress 2024. Most meetings in units continue to be online.
- *Division 6 (Purabi Bose)* – Division 6 newsletter Issue no. 6 was released. Issue no. 7 to be released in April 2023. Communication Intern – Vino will continue to support outreach of the Division. Strategy Action Plan reporting: highlights include book on Arboriculture in Malaysia; project Equal Chances in Forestry, Women in Forestry Association, Poland. World Congress 2024: Division officeholders are well-represented in technical and sub-plenary sessions. Future plans include: Green Environment Conference 2023 in Lithuania, RG 6.07 Urban Forests and Nature-Based Solutions at the annual European Forum on Urban Forestry in Poland, and RG 6.06 Forests for Public Health at the 3rd World Congress (4-7 October, Canada); rewards – reviving RGs, planning for facilitating the outgoing officeholders, identifying incoming RG officeholders, HAC nominations; and collaborative side events with SLU Global and Focali towards 2024.
- *Division 7 (Tod Ramsfield)* – Event highlights include the successful All-Division 7 meeting in Lisbon, Portugal; WP 7.02.02 and 7.02.05 conference in USA; WP 7.02.09 event in USA; WPs 7.03.07, 7.03.12 and 8.02.04 conference in Czech; and workshop on genetics of tree-parasite interactions with Division 2 in Pontevedra, Spain. Major events planned in 2023 include ICPP 2023 in France (6 sessions); WP 7.02.13 with WP 7.02.03 in September in Brazil; WP 7.03.05, WP 7.03.07, WP 7.03.16 and Task Force in August in France. Events have also been planned in New Zealand and Japan in 2024, plus 12 sessions (many co-organized with other Divisions) at the World Congress 2024. Division's communications benefits from Dr. Josephine Queffelec, RG 7.03 Deputy Coordinator, who manages Twitter and Facebook accounts.
- *Division 8 (Sandra Luque)* – 10 webinars and 2 hybrid events since September 2022. Engaged 6 junior officeholders, participation in 3 mentoring programmes and 4 training schools. 9 cross-Divisions/TF event emerging issues. 7 joint activities (e.g., INTECOL-ForestSat, IALE, etc). Participation of PhD students and post docs. Next conference (WP 8.03.06) workshops will be partly run by PhD students. Tools (remote sensing coupled with AI). Identifying emerging areas of research. Forest resilience and impact on Ecosystem Services (e.g., Project EU Eco2Adapt). Conference held in Brazil, planned in Japan, Mexico, Portugal. Major event – IUFRO Forest Environment Division 8 Conference 2023, to be held from 24-27 October in Evora, Portugal (<https://iufro2023.uevora.pt/>).
- *Division 9 (Mónica Gabay)* – progress on the Strategy Action Plan by March 2023 can be generalized as follows: lots of progress have been made with improving capacities for quality science, identifying emerging areas of research; increasing interdisciplinary collaboration, improving communication within the network and further diversifying participation in IUFRO structure. Areas lagging behind include enhancing global forestry education and strengthening science-society interaction. Main achievements and challenges can be highlighted as follows: diversity – gender equality, empowerment and regional representation; youth – interactions with IFSA, youth involvement; social networks – enhance presence, more dissemination, collaboration with IUFRO website; interdivisional collaboration – joint events and publications, joint session proposals for World Congress 2024; partnerships with major groups/private sector.

D. Kleinschmit and the meeting Chair thanked all Division Coordinators for their active engagement and leadership in IUFRO Divisions. In the discussion, the future dual coordination of Divisions was commended as a major step forward by IUFRO. Peter Mayer on behalf of the Directors' Forum raised the interest to collaborate regarding the cross-Divisional topics and suggested including also policy-relevant topics. He suggested providing answers to complex questions through rapid response assessments or similar formats, to provide collectively scientific input and opinions on emerging topics.

Action 2:

- *Coordinators of IUFRO Divisions and Special Programmes and Projects to hold joint meetings in order to identify options for collaborating on cross-Divisional and policy-relevant topics;*

IFSA representative commented that IFSA has already received lots of support from IUFRO, but the main challenge remains how to enable students participate in major events such as the World Congress 2024. Additionally, there seem to be lots of events in the regions locally, where IFSA representatives could participate. This would provide opportunities for students to meet scientists (mentoring) and learn about the topics and science. It was suggested exploring opportunities for more systematic interaction with IFSA at a regional level with regards to IUFRO events and conferences.

Officeholders whose term is ending in June 2024

In following up on EBM 2022 Action 25, IUFRO HQ has compiled a list of officeholders who will have served two full terms by the time of the IUFRO World Congress 2024 and who are therefore not eligible for another term in the same position. HQ will send the list to all Division Coordinators following this Board Meeting. It was noted that it would be helpful to also receive the full list of officeholders to Division Coordinators, alongside the compiled lists, as the terms of all officeholders will expire at the next World Congress.

Action 3:

- *IUFRO HQ to provide the list of officeholders who will have completed their second term by the IUFRO World Congress 2024, together with the full list of officeholders for each Division, to Division Coordinators as soon as possible;*

Action 4:

- *Division Coordinators to inform the officeholders whose second term will be completed by the time of the IUFRO World Congress 2024, and ask them to start identifying new officeholders for their positions in units;*

Changes in IUFRO units and officeholders since September 2022

D. Kleinschmit informed the Board that only two changes in structure and officeholders have been made since the 61st EBM and these have been compiled into background document Doc 5.2. Both changes are for information only and do not require Board approval.

6. IUFRO Officeholders 2024-2029

Documents:

- *Board 3/2023 Doc 6.1 Report of the Nominating Committee including recommendations for IUFRO Voting Board 2024-2029 (M. Wingfield)*
- *Board 3/2023 Doc 6.2 Summary table including nomination documents for the candidates recommended by the NC (IUFRO HQ)*
- *Board 3/2023 Doc 6.3 Voting procedure for the composition of the Voting Board 2024-2029 (HQ)*

General introduction by Chair of Nominating Committee

The Chair of the Nominating Committee (NC), IUFRO's Immediate Past President Mike Wingfield moderated this agenda item. He introduced the agenda item by giving an overview of the nomination process for the IUFRO Voting Board 2024-2029, including the report from the NC meeting. He started by highlighting the diverse membership of the Nominating Committee, as approved by the Board at its previous meeting. Regarding the nomination process, he noted that the NC had received nominations for all advertised positions by the deadline of 31 October 2022. IUFRO HQ checked nominations for their completeness and conformity with the formal requirements and prepared a summary table with links to nomination documents for each candidate (Board document Doc. 6.2) by the end of 2022. M. Wingfield noted that, as agreed earlier by the Board, the President's Nominees were not included in the call for nominations and will be selected (in consultation with the Management Committee) by the incoming President-elect for term 2024-2029.

List of candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee

He continued by noting that the NC met virtually in February 2023 to discuss and deliberate all nominations. The outcome of the meeting was a list of recommended candidates to be presented to the Board. All selected nominees were recommended unanimously by the NC. The NC Chair then presented the following list of candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee:

- *IUFRO President:* Daniela Kleinschmit
- *Vice President (IUFRO Divisions):* Woodam Chung
- *Vice President (IUFRO Task Forces):* Elena Paoletti
- *Division 1: Co-Coordination:* Teresa Fonseca and Pil Sun Park
- *Division 2: Co-Coordination:* Amanda De La Torre and Santiago C. González-Martínez
- *Division 3: Co-Coordination:* Ola Lindroos and Rene Zamora-Cristales
- *Division 4: Co-Coordination:* Donald Hodges and Bianca Eskelson
- *Division 5: Co-Coordination:* Roger Meder and Franka Brüchert
- *Division 6: Co-Coordination:* Purabi Bose and Justin Morgenroth
- *Division 7: Co-Coordination:* Tod Ramsfield and Maartje Klapwijk
- *Division 8: Co-Coordination:* Alexia Stokes and Chabi Djagoun
- *Division 9: Co-Coordination:* Mónica Gabay and Jinlong Liu

In the discussions, it was noted with satisfaction that IUFRO has received such a diverse and balanced list of candidates. A comment was made about the number of candidates for the leadership positions and that in the future IUFRO should strive to have more than one candidate for the President and Vice-Presidents.

Approval of voting procedure

IUFRO Operations Manager Andre Purret, who supported the Nomination Committee in this process, informed the Board about the suggested procedure for presenting and voting in the meeting. A. Purret highlighted the contents of the Board document Doc. 6.3 and noted that the Board will be invited to discuss the NC recommendations and approve the suggested voting procedure as a first step.

For the record, to be included in the Minutes, IUFRO HQ confirmed that a simple majority of the Voting Board is present in the meeting, thus fulfilling the respective requirement of the IUFRO Statutes para 15 of the Article VII: Board (*Decisions made during Board meetings, or by electronic ballot between Board meetings, require a simple majority of votes, provided that more than half of the voting members of the Board are present.*). It was agreed that no voting Board members needed to abstain due to a

conflict of interest. The Board agreed that, for reasons of fairness, the number of votes cast on the candidates would not be stated in the minutes. However, the voting slips/records would be available for inspection at IUFRO HQ.

The Chair invited the Board to approve the voting procedure. Mónica Gabay proposed the following motion:

MOTION 4:

- To approve the procedure for voting on the composition of the IUFRO Board 2024-2029;

Seconded by Jens Peter Skovsgaard.

The motion was carried unanimously.

As per the proposed and agreed procedures, the candidates for the President and the two Vice-Presidents were invited to briefly present their visions for the 2024-2029 term, followed by questions to the candidates by the Board.

Candidate for the President

Before her presentation, D. Kleinschmit asked the Board to observe a moment of silence in honour of IUFRO's Past President Walter Liese who had passed away in February 2023 at the age of 97.

D. Kleinschmit started by presenting her scientific background and interest, followed by an overview of her research management skills and experience, and introduction of herself as a private person. She then gave a brief overview of her more than 20 years of engagement in IUFRO that started in year 2000 as a Deputy Coordinator of an IUFRO Task Force. Her vision for IUFRO was inspired by IUFRO's Vision "The Global Voice of Forest Science – Promoting a Sustainable Future of Forests and Society" and included the following five aspects: a) Global: strengthening Gender and Geographical Diversity and involvement of early-career researchers (ECR) through developing a structural, continued Mentoring System; b) Science: ensuring highest, state of the art scientific knowledge on forest by supporting collaborative efforts (from Divisions and Task Forces) for excellent publications; c) Sustainable: aiming for a shared understanding of IUFRO's position in responding climate change through initializing a group that can provide input for a sensitive discussion about the direction of IUFRO in times of climate change; d) Future: creating awareness of emerging research issues by establishing Structural Assessments of Emerging Issues; and e) Society: aiming for IUFRO Research contributing to a global transformation towards sustainability by fostering interactions with society (Regional Conferences). She closed by noting that if she were to be selected as the next IUFRO President, IUFRO could expect from her collaborative leadership, great enthusiasm and engagement and openness for adaptive developments. At the same time, she noted the need for support by the Board in building this vision in a collaborative manner.

Following the presentation by the candidate for the President, the Board was invited to ask questions to the candidate. Responding to a question about the greatest challenge and the greatest opportunity, D. Kleinschmit identified the issue of diversity in IUFRO and the "new normal" with its implications for the network (operating fully online vs in-person). It would be essential to define our way through these challenges and carefully balance, for instance, the need for mentoring of early-career scientists and reducing carbon emissions caused by travel. As an opportunity, she pointed out the possibility offered by new technologies to reach out to much more people worldwide, and to learn more about the ways to improve communication. Another question was about her views on how IUFRO can address issues regarding indigenous communities and cultures. She answered that IUFRO needs to find a way to work on these important, but sensitive issues and take a position as a team. A couple of Board Members noted that as the interest in IUFRO is globally increasing, including from different stakeholders, IUFRO

should already now think about its future strategy and what function of IUFRO plays the most important role in implementing the next strategy. Additionally, it was suggested discussing the next IUFRO strategy in Stockholm in 2024. D. Kleinschmit noted that different stakeholders need different approaches (scientists vs other stakeholders), and that IUFRO can do much more in leading discussions on emerging issues and reaching out to the wider group of stakeholders (including through the science-policy programme). Responding to a question about how to tackle the interface between humans and forest resources, she noted that IUFRO scientists are not managers and that the role of IUFRO was to provide an overview of the trade-offs, conflicts etc. The last question to her was about how to close the gap/divide between urban and rural communities. She responded that this issue would benefit from a closer look within the structure of IUFRO. The moderator thanked the candidate for the President for her presentation and moved on to the candidates for IUFRO Vice-Presidents.

Candidates for the Vice-Presidents

The moderator invited Elena Paoletti as the candidate for the Vice-President for Task Forces to present first. E. Paoletti provided an overview of her career in IUFRO, noting that she had also been the coordinator of a Task Force, and thus understands the perspectives of and expectations by TF Coordinators. Active communication with the Task Forces would be one of her main tasks as the Vice-President. In her view, Task Forces have extraordinary potential for strengthening interdisciplinarity in IUFRO's work, and she would like to help Task Forces to maximize their roles. Secondly, she would seek to further improve the process ranging from submission of proposals to the evaluation and eventual termination of Task Forces. She also noted the importance of continuous discussions e.g., via business meetings between Task Forces, Divisions, and the current and incoming Vice-Presidents. Thirdly, she pointed out that her aim was to establish regular dialogues and information exchange between Task Forces, Divisions and HQ.

Following the presentation by the candidate for the Vice-President for Task Forces, the Board was invited to direct questions to the candidate. A question was raised about how the success of Task Forces can be monitored. E. Paoletti responded that through refining the call for Task Forces and by clarifying the requirements, the quality of Task Forces would be raised. It would also be possible to have a mid-term (self) evaluation after 2 years and then decide on the future until the end of the Task Force term. It was also important in her view to not extend the term of a Task Force beyond the Board term. It was added from the floor that the main challenges for Task Forces include the coordination and communication among Task Forces, and also externally. The moderator thanked the candidate for the Vice-President for Task Forces for her presentation.

The moderator then invited Woodam Chung as the candidate for the Vice-President for Divisions to make his presentation. W. Chung gave an overview of his career in IUFRO and thanked IUFRO for having provided him with mentoring opportunities over the past 18 years. When he was elected as the Coordinator of Division 3, his main priorities had been communication, collaboration and education. He took pride in establishing PhD student conferences within the Division and creating more communication channels. When elected, his priorities would focus on the three following areas: a) existing officeholders – finding opportunities for cross-Divisional collaboration, having close ties with the Task Forces and increasing team-building effort on competitive international grants; b) new officeholders – close work with HQ and leadership in developing virtual orientation, with the goal to reduce new officeholder's organizational learning curve, share how to do IUFRO businesses, and set and outline officeholder expectations and responsibilities; and c) future officeholders – setting up a virtual Mentor-Mentee program, and potentially expanding the Doctoral Student Conference convened by Division 3 to all Divisions.

Following the presentation by the candidate for the Vice-President for Divisions, the Board was invited to ask questions to the candidate. Responding to a question on how to improve the situation with inactive units, W. Chung said that investing in early-career scientists (including through the PhD student conferences he had started) and building relationships early enough is the key. He also highlighted the responsibilities and expectations as the keywords. He pointed out promoting cross-Divisional activities and enhancing collaboration between Divisions and Task Forces on emerging issues as additional priorities for the future. A question was raised about whether IUFRO should continue to have more regular Division Coordinator meetings and develop Divisions structures together. W. Chung noted that more meetings between Divisions and also with Task Forces are a necessity.

Vote on the President, Vice-Presidents and Division Co-Coordiators on recommendation to the International Council

According to the IUFRO Statutes and Internal Regulations, the IUFRO President, the Vice-Presidents and the Division Co-Coordiators are approved by the International Council, based on the recommendations by the Board. The President's Nominees will be selected by the incoming President-elect, with approval of the International Council, prior to the next Board meeting in Stockholm in 2024.

Following the agreed procedure for voting on the respective positions for the Board term 2024-2029, the Voting Board members in the room and online, except the President, were requested to cast their vote for the President, two Vice-Presidents and nine pairs of Division Co-Coordiators in one voting session via the online tool Mentimeter. The President was asked to cast his votes in the room via paper voting slip (his votes were to be used only in case of a tie). Once the access code was shown by IUFRO HQ, all 20 eligible Voting Board members were asked to cast their votes (19 online votes; 1 paper vote).

Once all eligible Voting Board members had cast their votes, IUFRO HQ showed the results of the individual votes in Mentimeter for the President, two Vice-Presidents and nine pairs of Division Co-Coordiators on screen for both in-person and virtual participants, announced by the vote moderator.

All the candidates put forward by the Nominating Committee received a clear majority of votes in favour and were thus successful. The Board agreed that, for reasons of fairness, the number of votes cast on the candidates would not be stated in the minutes. However, the voting slips/electronic records would be available for inspection at IUFRO HQ.

The moderator of the agenda item invited the Board to recommend to the International Council the list of candidates endorsed by the Nominating Committee for the IUFRO Board 2024-2029. Hubert Hasenauer proposed the following motion:

MOTION 5:

- To recommend to the IUFRO International Council the following position holders for the IUFRO Board term 2024-2029:
 - Daniela Kleinschmit (President);
 - Woodam Chung (Vice-President Divisions);
 - Elena Paoletti (Vice-President Task Forces);
 - Teresa Fonseca and Pil Sun Park (Co-Coordiators Division 1);
 - Amanda De La Torre and Santiago C. González-Martínez (Co-Coordiators Division 2);
 - Ola Lindroos and Rene Zamora-Cristales (Co-Coordiators Division 3);
 - Donald Hodges and Bianca Eskelson (Co-Coordiators Division 4);
 - Roger Meder and Franka Brüchert (Co-Coordiators Division 5);
 - Purabi Bose and Justin Morgenroth (Co-Coordiators Division 6);
 - Tod Ramsfield and Maartje Klapwijk (Co-Coordiators Division 7);
 - Alexia Stokes and Chabi Djagoun (Co-Coordiators Division 8);

- Mónica Gabay and Jinlong Liu (Co-Coordination Division 9).

Seconded by Wubalem Tadesse Wondifraw.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chair of the Nominating Committee thanked all candidates and those who had prepared the successful nominations. He also thanked the Nominating Committee members and IUFRO HQ. He and the Chair of the meeting congratulated all positions-elect for the next IUFRO Board term 2024-2029.

Action 5:

- *IUFRO HQ, with guidance from the President, to prepare electronic ballot vote for representatives of the IUFRO International Council, asking for approval of the candidates for President, Vice-President for Divisions, Vice-President for Task Forces and Division Co-Coordinator pairs for each of the nine Divisions recommended by the Board for the Board term 2024-2029. The electronic ballot vote to be carried out by June 2023 at the latest;*

Pending action (EBM Action 24) from the 61st IUFRO Enlarged Board meeting, modified as follows:

Action 6:

- *Once approved by the International Council, the President to send out individual notifications about their appointments by August 2023 to the incoming President, two Vice-Presidents and nine pairs of Division Co-Coordination for the Board term 2024-2029;*

IUFRO HQ informed the Board about the next steps regarding the selection of the IUFRO President's Nominees. The President's Nominees will be selected by the incoming President-elect for term 2024-2029, pending MC and Board endorsement and approval by the International Council. The process would be guided by the following actions:

Action 7:

- *The incoming President-elect to propose candidates for up to five (5) President's Nominees by the time of the next MC meeting in September 2023 in Ghana;*

Action 8:

- *Following the MC discussions and its recommendation to the Board as a result of the MC meeting in September 2023 in Ghana, the Board to vote via electronic ballot vote by 30 November 2023 on the recommendation of the President's Nominees to the International Council;*

Action 9:

- *The International Council to vote on approval of the President's Nominees via electronic ballot vote by 31 December 2023, following the recommendations of the Board;*

Action 10:

- *Pending approval by the International Council, the President to invite the incoming President's Nominees to attend the 63rd IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting – a joint meeting of the outgoing and incoming IUFRO Board held in conjunction with the IUFRO World Congress on 20-21 June 2024 in Stockholm;*

IUFRO HQ also informed the Board about the proposal regarding the selection process for Deputy Division Coordinators. The Deputy Division Coordinators will be selected by the incoming Division Co-Coordination, pending Board approval. The process would be guided by the following actions:

Action 11:

- *Following the approval of the Division Co-Coordination for Board term 2024-2029 by the International Council, the incoming Division Co-Coordination to start the process of selecting*

their Deputy Division Coordinators. The proposals for the Deputy Division Coordinator positions will be submitted by the incoming Division Co-Coordinators to the IUFRO Board by 31 October 2023;

Action 12:

- *The Board to approve the proposed Deputy Division Coordinators via electronic ballot vote by 31 November 2023;*

Action 13:

- *The President to invite the incoming Deputy Division Coordinators to attend the 63rd Enlarged Board Meeting – a joint meeting of the outgoing and incoming IUFRO Board held in conjunction with the IUFRO World Congress on 20-21 June 2024 in Stockholm;*

7. Extension of contract of IUFRO Executive Director and planned organization of HQ team responsibilities in the next Board term

A. Buck informed the Board that Michael Kleine, the Deputy Executive Director of IUFRO and Coordinator of the IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities (IUFRO-SPDC), has decided to retire from these positions in autumn 2024. By this time M. Kleine will have served IUFRO for more than 23 years, including 14 years as IUFRO's Deputy Executive Director. Given M. Kleine's outstanding and internationally recognized experience in science networking, capacity development and knowledge generation, and his exceptionally strong track record in project acquisition, resource mobilization, financial planning and monitoring, a clear plan and process was needed for filling the two positions currently held by him. From now until his retirement, there would be 18 months' time to develop and implement a succession plan in IUFRO HQ for the two positions held by M. Kleine, drawing from the existing staff at IUFRO HQ who have acquired the necessary level of expertise and experience. At the same time, the successors in these positions will require continued guidance and mentoring beyond 2024. A. Buck stated that he was prepared to provide this continued leadership and stability at IUFRO HQ in the coming years. He noted that he has lots of devotion, engagement and wishes to contribute even more to IUFRO.

Against this background, and due to the fact that the contract with Executive Director Alexander Buck expires in December 2024, the President asked the Board to extend the contract of Alexander Buck for another term until end of 2029. According to the IUFRO Statutes and Internal Regulations, the President appoints the Executive Director with approval of the Board.

The Board asked all IUFRO HQ staff members in the room/online, including the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director to leave the room/disconnect, while discussing the proposal by the President.

As a result of the discussions within the Board, the Chair invited the Board to approve the extension of contract of Executive Director Alexander Buck. Mike Wingfield proposed the following motion:

MOTION 6:

- To approve the extension of the contract of IUFRO Executive Director until the end of 2029.

Seconded by Jens Peter Skovsgaard.

The motion was carried unanimously.

8. IUFRO World Congress 2029

Documents:

- *Board 3/2023 Doc 8.1 Bidding documents of the two short-listed bidders, including the updated bids, site visit reports and the unilaterally signed agreements (Bidders; IUFRO HQ)*

- Board 3/2023 Doc 8.2 Voting procedure for the host country of the IUFRO World Congress 2029 (IUFRO HQ)

Information about the bidding process

The President as the Chair of the meeting moderated this agenda item. A. Purret presented an overview of the bidding process, including key milestones. By the deadline of 15 April 2022, IUFRO HQ had received in total three (3) bids from a) Edmonton, Canada; b) Nairobi, Kenya; and c) Bangkok, Thailand. After checking compliance of received bids with formal requirements and criteria as set out in the Bidding Rules and Call for Bids, IUFRO HQ concluded that all three bids should proceed to the review by the MC. All MC members had submitted a filled-in bid evaluation form and made additional comments, and the MC collectively discussed the results of evaluation at its meeting in September 2022. The MC announced the shortlist of two best bids (Edmonton and Nairobi) at the 61st IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting in September 2022.

The President, with the support by IUFRO HQ, then informed all bidders about the status of their proposals through formal letters and invited them to present their bid for the Congress 2029 to the Board at the current meeting in India. In the interim, representatives of the MC and IUFRO HQ would visit both host countries and the proposed venues by 31 December 2022. The site visits to Edmonton, Canada took place on 01 December 2022 (by J. Parrotta and A. Purret) and to Nairobi, Kenya on 20 December 2022 (by D. Kleinschmit and A. Purret). Written reports on the results of each of the two site visits were circulated to the Board. The MC discussed the results of the site visits and identified additional questions and suggestions to the bidders at its virtual call on 16 January 2023. The bidders were given the chance to correct factual mistakes in the site visit reports and update their bids to include the latest information. For full transparency, both bidders also received each other's full bid and final site visit report.

Both bidders were requested to submit their updated bids, responses to the MC questions and suggestions and the unilaterally signed agreements to IUFRO HQ by 28 February 2023. The final site visit reports, responses to the MC questions and suggestions, updated full bids, and the unilaterally signed agreements were included in the background documentation for the current meeting (Doc 8.1). The President thanked IUFRO HQ for the presentation and the work done throughout the bidding process.

Explanation and approval of voting procedure, incl. conflict of interest policy

A. Purret informed the Board about the procedure for presenting and voting in the meeting. He highlighted the contents of the Board document Doc. 8.2 and noted that the Board was invited to discuss and approve the suggested voting procedure, including the conflict of interest policy for any Board Members. The Board identified one person with a potential conflict of interest (Tod Ramsfield, Canada, Coordinator Division 7) who abstained himself from the discussions and the voting and left the room for the whole agenda item.

For the record, IUFRO HQ confirmed that a simple majority of the Voting Board was present, thus fulfilling the respective requirement of the IUFRO Statutes para 15 of the Article VII: Board (*Decisions made during Board meetings, or by electronic ballot between Board meetings, require a simple majority of votes, provided that more than half of the voting members of the Board are present.*). The Board agreed that, for reasons of fairness, the number of votes cast on the bids would not be stated in the minutes. However, voting slips/records would be available for inspection at IUFRO HQ.

The Chair invited the Board to approve the voting procedure. Daniela Kleinschmit proposed the following motion:

MOTION 7:

- To approve the procedure for voting on the host of the IUFRO World Congress 2029;

Seconded by Woodam Chung.

The motion was carried unanimously.

As per the proposed and agreed procedures, both bidders were invited to present their bids, in turn, to the Board in max. 25 minutes, followed by questions for clarifications by the Board. It was decided by lot that bidders from Edmonton, Canada will present their bid first, followed by Nairobi, Kenya. The representatives of the other bid were asked to leave the room.

Nadir Erbilgin (Professor and Department Chair, University of Alberta, Edmonton), supported by Nicola Alexander (Business Development Account Manager, Business Events, Explore Edmonton) presented the Edmonton bid. The Nairobi bid was presented by Joshua Cheboiwo (Director, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, KEFRI), supported by Mercy Gichora (Chief Research Scientist, KEFRI).

After each presentation, the Board addressed a number of questions to the presenters, focusing on details related to e.g., financial plan, envisaged scientific programme, format of the congress and scenarios for participation numbers, engagement of and support by partners, including in the region, expected contributions to the SPDC's Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP), youth engagement, venue accessibility and impact of the Congress for the region.

Following a general discussion, during which the bidders were absent from the room, the Chair proceeded to the vote on host of the IUFRO World Congress 2029 to be recommended to the IUFRO International Council.

Vote on host of the IUFRO World Congress 2029 on recommendation to the International Council

According to the IUFRO Statutes and Internal Regulations, the host country of the IUFRO World Congress is approved by the International Council, based on the recommendations by the Board.

Following the agreed procedure for voting, the Voting Board members in the room and online, except the President, were requested to cast their vote on their preferred bid via the online tool Mentimeter. The President was asked to cast his vote in the room via paper voting slip (his vote was to be used only in case of a tie). Once the access code was shown by IUFRO HQ, all 19 eligible Voting Board members were asked to cast their votes (18 online votes; 1 paper vote).

Once all eligible Voting Board members had cast their votes, IUFRO HQ showed the results of the individual votes in Mentimeter on screen for both in-person and virtual participants, announced by the vote moderator. Following the single count voting, Nairobi, Kenya was announced as the winner.

The Chair invited the Board to recommend Nairobi, Kenya to the International Council as the host of the XXVII IUFRO World Congress 2029. Mike Wingfield proposed the following motion:

MOTION 8:

- To recommend Nairobi, Kenya to the IUFRO International Council as the host of the XXVII IUFRO World Congress 2029;

Seconded by Daniela Kleinschmit.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The President thanked both bidders for their efforts and presentations. Both bidders were informed about the results of the vote. Congratulations were passed on to the bidders from Nairobi, Kenya.

Action 14:

- *IUFRO HQ, with guidance from the President, to prepare an electronic ballot vote for representatives of the IUFRO International Council, asking for approval of Nairobi, Kenya as the host of the XXVII IUFRO World Congress 2029, based on the recommendation by the Board. The electronic ballot vote is to be carried out by June 2023 at the latest;*

Action 15:

- *Once Nairobi, Kenya has been approved by the International Council as the host of the World Congress 2029, the President to invite the representatives of the team from Nairobi, Kenya to attend the 63rd IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting and the IUFRO World Congress 2024, where the IUFRO flag will formally be handed over from Stockholm, Sweden to Nairobi, Kenya;*

9. IUFRO Task Forces

Documents:

- *Board 3/2023 Doc 9.1 Report of the Vice-President for Divisions (S. Liu)*

Introduction by the IUFRO Vice-President for Task Forces

Shirong Liu, the IUFRO Vice-President for Task Forces, presented an overview of the activities of the Task Forces since the last Board Meeting. All of them have been successfully carrying out their planned work in virtual and other forms. There are now in total 9 TFs including the newly approved Task Force on Precision Pest Management (approved by the Board in December 2022). S. Liu highlighted that the coordination and communication between TFs and IUFRO HQ/Divisions had improved, that the TFs continue to contribute to achieving IUFRO Strategy and the Strategic Goals, and that he and the TFs were actively involved in shaping up scientific programme of the World Congress 2024.

Regarding the newly approved Task Force on Precision Pest Management, it was suggested extending the term of the new TF to the next Board term automatically. The Chair invited Board members to propose a related motion. Mike Wingfield proposed the following motion:

MOTION 9:

- To extend the term of IUFRO Task Force on Precision Pest Management until the end of the Board term 2024-2029;

Seconded by Tod Ramsfield.

The motion was carried unanimously.

On the topic of communication and coordination, S. Liu noted that the TFs were active in discussing suggestions for improving the filtered IUFRO Strategy Action Plan and submitting their inputs to the Action Plan. TFs were also requested to inform IUFRO HQ regularly about the social media followers and subscribers. All TFs were encouraged to participate in the IUFRO events, including at the next IUFRO World Congress 2024. On the latter, it was noted that the Congress Organizing Committee had received many proposals by TFs for the sub-plenary and technical sessions. TFs were mentioned as partners in 84 session proposals in total and interdisciplinary nature made these proposals very relevant. Activity highlights included active participation and involvement in the All-IUFRO Conference 2022, participation in international events such as at the UNFCCC COP27 and Forest Europe Expert Group Meetings, and publications in emerging areas of research.

In the period leading up the IUFRO World Congress S. Liu will continue to work with the TF Coordinators and motivate all TFs to deliver on their mandates to support the IUFRO Strategy and its

Strategic Goals, and take all necessary steps to prepare the application process of TFs for the Board term 2024-2029 in collaboration with the incoming Vice-President for Task Forces (see below).

Activity highlights by Task Force Coordinators

All Task Force Coordinators were asked to present 1-2 highlights (1 slide) per Task Force regarding activities since September 2022 and plans until the World Congress 2024. Since the Coordinators of Task Forces on Forest and Water, Tree Mortality, Planted Forests, and Bioeconomy and Non-Timber Forest Products were not available for presenting virtually, the Vice-President of Task Forces gave a brief overview of the activity updates from these Task Forces. Highlights included:

- *Joint IUFRO-IFSA TF on Forest Education (Annie Biju, IFSA)* – JTF carried out two workshops, on the topic of “Introduction to Social Research Methods” in November 2022 in collaboration with WRI and Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua, Mexico (120 students from 10 countries); and on “Building a Successful Application” in February 2023 in collaboration with ISTF and University of Ilorin (45 students around the world). Upcoming activities include Best Practices Competition 2023 in October 2023; conducting a study “to utilize Many Facet Rasch Model (MFRM) in enhancing analytical rigor in selecting articles for the Systematic Review (SR) database; organizing a Forest Education Symposium in collaboration with Unit 6.09 in October 2023; and preparing sub-plenary session and two technical sessions for World Congress 2024.
- *TF Forest and Water Interactions in a Changing Environment (S. Liu on behalf of Adam Wei)* – achievements include holding a plenary session on forest and water in the All-IUFRO Conference 2022; a global review on forest management and water provision for a special issue of Forest Ecology and Management (published in 2023); and one sub-plenary and three technical sessions proposals for IUFRO World Congress 2024. Future plans include the organization of the 6th International IUFRO Conference on Forest and Water; organization of the international workshop on restoration hydrology in Perth, Australia; and joint organization of a seminar series based on published nine global reviews with IUFRO Division 8, FAO and other international organizations.
- *TF Gender Equality in Forestry (Gun Lidestav)* – plenary session at the All-IUFRO Conference 2022 where different gender aspects were presented and discussed together with a panel of top-level IUFRO representatives and the audience; survey among officeholders and conference participants regarding their opinions and experience about gender balance and inclusion in the IUFRO network (the results provided valuable additional inputs to the organizational analysis report); preparation for Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Gender Equality and Diversity in partnership with FutureLearn (through University of Padova), course proposals are being finalized and basic funding (about 40,000 Euro) has been secured by SLU though additional money needs to be mobilized; the proposal for a sub-plenary session at IUFRO World Congress 2024 was accepted – S5.3 In practice of a gender equal and inclusive forestry sector.
- *TF Transforming Forest Landscape for Future Climates and Human Well-being (Andreas Bolte)* – session “Forest Degradation and Restoration” at the All-IUFRO conference (15 flash-talks and 8 posters), with TF Monitoring of Global Tree Mortality; successful start of the webinar “Forest Restoration Talks” with EU Horizon project SUPERB with around 400 participants from all over the world in four talks from November 2022 to February 2023; TF-Editorial “Forest Adaptation and Restoration under Global Change” in Annals of Forest Science (<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13595-022-01172-6>).
- *TF Precision Pest Management (Jeremy Allison)* – the primary foci/themes of this new TF include Precision Pest Management (PPM); Development and Implementation of PPM; and

Risk Management and PPM. The primary objectives built into themes include: a) Mitigate Variation in Capacity Globally; b) Identify Barriers to Development and Implementation of PPM; and c) Mentor Early Career Researchers. Workplan until 2024 involves organizing a joint meeting of WP and TF in Bordeaux, France (29 August – 1 September 2023); soliciting input regarding outputs and participation from IUFRO community; and developing workplans and planning of activities for 2024.

- *TF Monitoring Global Tree Mortality Patterns and Trends* (S. Liu on behalf of Henrik Hartmann) – successful webinar series (15 talks, more than 2000 registrations, 172 new YouTube channel subscribers); 6 interdisciplinary conference sessions accepted for World Congress 2024; global data survey on forest condition including > 200 contributors, manuscript to be submitted in March 2023, interactive open-access map providing geo-referenced information on tree mortality events online; peer-reviewed publication; and work in the policy interface – ForRISK: pan – European forest risk knowledge mechanism, TF Coordinator as observer in FOREST EUROPE.
- *TF Resilient Planted Forests for Society and Bioeconomy* (S. Liu on behalf of Christophe Orazio) – the TF will be very active in 2023-2024. Future activities include the International Congress on Planted Forests 2023, to be held in ICRAF, Nairobi, Kenya in November 2023; IUFRO conference on “Global Challenges and Innovative Management of Bark and Wood Borers in Planted Forests” in August-September 2023 in Bordeaux, France; FAO TBFRA – Planted forest update and analysis of land use impact of plantation forests, 2023 (FAO, SCION); TF started cycle of regular meetings “Let's talk about planted forests” on 18th of March 2023: <https://www.iefc.net/fr/lets-talk-about-planted-forests/>, the next session will be held on April 22 about emerging pest and diseases in planted forest.
- *TF Resilient Planted Forests for Society and Bioeconomy* (S. Liu on behalf of Christophe Orazio) – the TF will be very active in 2023-2024. Future activities include the International Congress on Planted Forests 2023, to be held in ICRAF, Nairobi, Kenya in November 2023; IUFRO conference on “Global Challenges and Innovative Management of Bark and Wood Borers in Planted Forests” in August-September 2023 in Bordeaux, France; FAO TBFRA – Planted forest update and analysis of land use impact of plantation forests, 2023 (FAO, SCION); TF started cycle of regular meetings “Let's talk about planted forests” on 18th of March 2023: <https://www.iefc.net/fr/lets-talk-about-planted-forests/>, the next session will be held on April 22 about emerging pest and diseases in planted forest.
- *TF Unlocking the Bioeconomy and Non-Timber Forest Products* (S. Liu on behalf of Jim Chamberlain) – ResearchGate Project to share knowledge about the Task Force; continuing with webinar series “Unlocking the Bioeconomy for Nontimber Forest Products”, latest webinar in October 2022; 8 session proposals for the IUFRO World Congress 2024; publication of a book [“The Bioeconomy and non-timber forest products”](#) by Routledge in 2022, edited by C. Smith-Hall and J. Chamberlain.
- *TF Strengthening Mediterranean Nursery Systems for Forest Reproductive Material Procurement to Adapt to the Effects of Climate Change* (Giovannibattista de Dato) – since the TF Coordinator was not able to join the meeting, and there was no prepared slide, no update about this TF was given at the meeting.

S. Liu thanked all TF Coordinators who were able to join the meeting and present their updates. He also expressed his gratitude to TF Coordinators for their commitment, diligence and devotion in coordinating activities of the various TFs. In the discussions, IUFRO HQ reminded TF Coordinators to inform IUFRO HQ's communication team about new publications and activities on a continuous basis.

Inviting Task Force proposals for the next Board term

S. Liu presented the suggested procedure and timeline for inviting new TF proposals. The procedure, endorsed by the Management Committee in 2022, involves the submission of a 1-2 page concept note, followed by a review of the concept note by the Board, and the preparation of a full TF proposals in case the concept note has been favourably reviewed by the Board. The full proposals will then again be reviewed by the Board. Based on the review comments and suggestions, the full proposals might need to be revised, followed by approval of the new TFs by the Board.

In the discussions, the term and number of Task Forces was discussed in detail. Some current TFs had expressed their wish to continue. It was suggested that TFs should not operate for more than one full Board term and noted that any TF can be transformed to a more permanent unit within IUFRO's structure, if so desired. Therefore, existing TFs, with the exception of the TF on Precision Pest Management, should not continue in the next Board term 2024-2029. Regarding the total number of TFs, it was noted that there cannot be an infinitive number of TFs.

It was also noted that in terms of content, the TFs successfully mobilize external people to the Network and finding the right mix between interdivisional cooperation versus working within TFs can be challenging. Related to an earlier discussion on transforming TFs into Divisional units, it was pointed out that for some topics, such as the ones related to the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, it would be difficult to transform the TF into and unit in between the period. A possible permanent mechanism for interdivisional work was also discussed by the Board. It was suggested not to create new structures within IUFRO, but rather utilize the existing structure, as it can also very well accommodate these interdisciplinary and interdivisional topics.

Cooperation and communication between TFs and Divisions was identified as an issue requiring improvement. Two-way communication is crucial, and Divisions should be more involved before establishing new TFs. Even in the case of overlaps between the work of TF and Divisional units, it would be important to communicate and collaborate. As a result of the discussion, the following actions were proposed:

Action 16:

- *Current Division Coordinators, Task Force Coordinators, the current and incoming Vice-President for Task Forces and Vice-President for Divisions to schedule a joint meeting in the next 6 months to discuss the establishment of new Task Forces;*

Action 17:

- *Also taking into account the result of the previous Action 16, the current Vice-President Task Forces and the incoming Vice-President Task Forces to jointly review the process, including timeline for inviting proposals for new Task Forces for the next Board term, and present related suggestions to the IUFRO Management Committee;*

10. Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives

Documents:

- *Board 3/2023 Doc 10.1 Proposal for science-policy programme (IUFRO HQ)*

Introduction by Deputy Executive Director (M. Kleine)

IUFRO Deputy Executive Director and Coordinator of IUFRO-SPDC Michael Kleine introduced the agenda item and provided remarks on the overall activities by IUFRO Special Programmes, Projects and Initiatives.

Activity highlights by SPP Coordinators (1 slide per SPP)

The Coordinators of IUFRO Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives (SPPs) –presented 1-2 highlights covering the period since the last Board Meeting, plus 1-2 highlights of planned activities until the XXVI World Congress 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden (1 slide) each. Highlights from their presentations:

- *IUFRO Special Programme Directors' Forum, SPDF (Peter Mayer)* – past activities included the production of a guideline document for communication of scientific research, derived from a SPDF session at the All-IUFRO Conference 2022 (a hybrid meeting with 25 participants + 40 online); 4 Core Group meetings during which the management priorities of the Core Group representative organizations were defined alongside discussions on IUFRO and DF strategies post 2024 (decision to produce a questionnaire to further define member priorities). Plans until 2024 include the production of a questionnaire to identify management priorities of IUFRO members, to be sent to all Directors and Deans in April 2023. The results are to be discussed in a webinar later in 2023 and incorporated into the DF strategy. Preparations are ongoing for the DF session at the World Congress 2024 “The role of forests in global challenges – Working Towards 2050” (title tbc), which will be guided by the questionnaire results.

In the discussions, a Board member noted that various stakeholders are interested in the work of the SPDF and that the programme should discuss the strategy for forest research globally. It was added that the SPDF involves a good number of heads and directors of research institutes, but it could be more impactful when engaging more university deans. Board members also requested clarification of the goals of the SPDF.

Action 18:

- *IUFRO Directors' Forum to populate its website to communicate better the intent and objectives of the SPDF to the public;*
- *IUFRO Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment, IUFRO-WFSE (Pia Katila)* – main activity has been the development of the comprehensive publication “Restoring forests for sustainable development – Policies, practices, impacts and ways forward”. It is peer-reviewed publication (currently in progress) and is to be published as an open access book by Oxford University Press later in 2023. Event highlights include representation of WFSE by Pablo Pacheco, Lead scientist of WWF in a panel at IUFRO’s event “REDD+ and forest landscape restoration: stakeholder views and potential synergies” held in November 2022 at the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF). Future plans include publishing the abovementioned open access book; hosting thematic session at Division 8 conference in October in Evora, Portugal; holding WFSE editorial meetings in May in the Netherlands and in October in Portugal; participating in the possible IUFRO joint side event at UNFCCC COP28 in November 2023 and involvement in a sub-plenary session in World Congress 2024 on “Restoring forests and trees: balancing goals, interests and trade-offs”.
- *Global Forest Expert Panels programme, GFEP (Christoph Wildburger)* – past activities include the launch of a new global assessment report “Forests and Trees for Human Health”, on 21 March 2023 (on the International Day of Forests 2023), including related communication and outreach activities (press releases, social media, interviews with media and journalists worldwide and events in CBD COP-15 & UNFF18); initiation of a new follow-up study on International Forest Governance (2010) –finalized the consortium of authors and held 2 meetings of the consortium of authors. Planning to launch the study in 2024; communication and outreach around the REDD+ follow-up report (2022) and associated publications at the GLF Climate during UNFCCC COP-27 and through newspaper articles and widespread coverage.

Future plans include development and finalisation of the Forests and Human Health Policy Brief for Asian stakeholders; finalisation of the follow-up study on International Forest Governance (to be launched at the World Congress 2024); and starting a new global GFEP assessment (selection of a topic, composition of a new Global Forest Expert Panel on the topic, development of the global assessment, and communication and outreach of the development of the new assessment and its preliminary outcomes).

Responding to a question about how the topics of the future GFEP assessments are selected, C. Wildburger noted that the consultation process involves steps such as looking at the policy-relevant topics and emerging issues, discussions with Divisional officeholders, selection of 2-3 topics to be further researched (background studies) and then the selection of the topic, to be endorsed by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

- *IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities, IUFRO-SPDC (Michael Kleine)* – past activity highlights include: 32 persons supported through the Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP) and short scientific visits (SSV) in 2022 and 30 are expected in 2023; two training workshops on restoration education in South Asia and one FLR training in Ethiopia; three thematic networking projects – FLR mentorship programme in Malawi and Sri Lanka, and Resilient Future Forest Lab in Central Asia; outreach activities including publications – review on forest-related NbS (IUFRO Occasional Paper 36), GLFx in Malawi and Guatemala; Russian edition of FLR guidelines; and Human Dimensions in FLR with WWF and SER. Future plans are related to the SPDC at World Congress 2024: pre-congress training workshop on scientific methods, on systematic evidence evaluation, on science-society interaction, and on skills and tools; organization and arranging the Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP) for the Congress; Forest Landscape Restoration Pavillion that showcases the FLR Mentorship in Africa and South Asia, Resilient Future Forest Lab in Central Asia, Guatemala South Coast Restoration Network, and Human dimensions in forest landscape restoration.

Board members congratulated IUFRO-SPDC for its great work and ambitious plans for the future.

The Chair thanked M. Kleine, the Coordinators of Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives, and their teams for their work and efforts.

Science-policy-programme

The Chair invited Christoph Wildburger, the Coordinator of Global Forest Expert Panels programme, GFEP to present the proposed IUFRO Science-Policy Programme. He started by noting that the proposal is directly in line with implementing Action 41 of the IUFRO Strategy Action Plan 2020-2024 to “Further develop the Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) from a project initiative into a fully-fledged science-policy programme“. The proposal was proposed by the IUFRO President and this move would strengthen IUFRO’s contribution to the science-policy interface by formalizing a separate unit in IUFRO Headquarters. The objectives of the Science-Policy Programme will be to: a) serve as IUFRO’s focal point for all international policy processes and undertake routine and timely engagements with them; b) facilitate and prioritize IUFRO’s inputs to various intergovernmental and international policy processes; c) mobilize and synthesize relevant scientific expertise to contribute to intergovernmental and international policy processes and tailor this information to different political settings; and d) ensure clear and coherent communication with internal and external collaborators, including IUFRO’s Special Programmes, Divisions, Task Forces, and officeholders, as well as IUFRO partners and donors. The Science-Policy Programme will be instrumental in securing development funds by communicating with donors and by providing policy-relevant science to support goals of sustainable development and international cooperation. The activities of the Programme will be implemented by the current structure

of the GFEP Programme and covered by its funds. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests' (CPF) Joint Initiative GFEP as well as IUFRO's Special Project WFSE will continue to operate in their current form and contribute to the objectives of the Science-Policy Programme.

There were no questions or comments from the Board, therefore the Chair invited Board members to propose a related motion. John Parrotta proposed the following motion:

MOTION 10:

- To establish an IUFRO Science-Policy Programme, located in and coordinated from IUFRO HQ, as described in Board Document 10.1;

Seconded by Monica Gabay and Peter Mayer.

The motion was carried unanimously.

11. IUFRO President's Nominees (PNs)

Documents:

- Board 3/2023 Doc 11.1 Consolidated report of the President's Nominees (J. Parrotta)

Introduction by the IUFRO President

The President introduced this agenda item and the roles of the President's Nominees.

Activity highlights by the President's Nominees

J. Parrotta invited all President's Nominees to highlight a few key activities since the last Board Meeting, plus anticipated future activities for the remainder of the Board term in June 2024.

- *President's Nominee for liaison with Africa (Wubalem Tadesse Wondifraw)* – Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Forest Landscape Restoration (IUFRO-EFD) in November 2022 (31 participants from 17 organizations in Ethiopia); webinar on *Pinus patula* involving Division 1 unit 1.01.10 and Centro PINUS; Dr. T. Fidalgo and W. Tadesse organized a webinar on *Pinus patula* in Africa on 09.03.2023; wider Dissemination of information and calls related to World Congress 2024 to African scientists; prepared a presentation on "Building resilience to climate change and its impacts in FLR" at the ICFRE-IUFRO International Symposium on 30.03.2023 in Dehradun, India. Future activities until the World Congress 2024 include continuing work with the Congress Scientific Committee and fostering and promoting IUFRO activities and collaboration in Africa.
- *President's Nominee for liaison with China (Wenfa Xiao)* – CAF is planning to join and participate in technical sessions at the World Congress 2024; CAF submitted recommendations on its scientists' participation in the Network; CAF wood scientists are involved in Conference Organizing Committee of the All-Division 5 conference in Australia, and workshops on forest carbon. CAF is also eager to find opportunities for sending abroad young scientists who could participate in IUFRO activities, including in regional organizations related to forests; INBAR/IUFRO training course with Africa about Bamboo and forests.
- *President's Nominee for liaison with Asia (Kugbo Shim)* – supported communication between IUFRO HQ and the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea; celebrations of the 100th anniversary of forest science and NIFoS in Korea in August 2022 (participation of 200 senior government officers and forest researchers); International Workshop: Asian Urban Forests and Networks (AUFN) for people and environment in January 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, jointly organized by NIFoS, USDA and APAFRI (20 experts from 9 countries); overall trend is to shift back to physical events.

- *President's Nominee advising on resource mobilization (Hubert Hasenauer)* – highlights include follow-up of budgetary issues and other organizational details related to the IUFRO Board Meeting and the All-Division Conference 2022 in Vienna, hosted and supported by BOKU; continued promotion of Forest Science issues within the Austrian Forestry Sector, as Vice president of the Austrian Forest Association and in international activities – examples include activities as the President of the Austrian Africa UniNet, as Advisor of the Government of Albania and River watch (an environmental Agency) and as a member “Waldklimarat” (Forest Climate Panel) in Germany. Future plans include continued promotion of forest issues in Austria and Europe through professional affiliations and commitments; participating and supporting activities planned for the World Congress 2024; advancing forestry issues in Africa as president of the Austrian Africa UniNet; and pushing the role of forests in the global carbon cycle as Professor of Forest Ecosystem Management.
- *President's Nominee for liaison with Latin America (Erich Gomes Schaitza)* – engaged communication teams from Brazil and IUFRO HQ to share IUFRO information in social media and e-mail; put effort in trying to advertise involvement in Task Forces; mentored bidding team from Nairobi, Kenya based on experiences from Curitiba Congress; planning for the World Congress 2024 – Embrapa participated in 5 of the 8 session proposals that came from Brazil; preparations ongoing for the regional conference "Sustainable Management, the Role of Forests, Agroforestry and Agriculture", to be held in Curitiba, Brazil, on 17-19 October 2023.

The Chair thanked the President's Nominees for their work and contributions. He noted that one of the President's Nominee, Elena Paoletti will present her reports under different agenda items (Honours and Awards Committee, Congress Scientific Committee).

In the discussions, it was suggested that FORNESSA takes an active role in relation to next World Congress 2029 in Nairobi, Kenya by promoting the event and engaging scientists from the region. IUFRO HQ informed the Board that a call for Short Scientific Visits (SSV) would be issued shortly and that this call could be promoted by the PN's in their respective regions. The bidding team from Nairobi, Kenya expressed their gratitude for the mentorship provided to them by E. Schaitza and F. Ingemarson.

12. Strategic partnerships, international cooperation and IUFRO in international processes

Update on activities by IUFRO HQ

Alexander Buck, on behalf of IUFRO HQ, provided an update of recent developments regarding partnerships since the last Board Meeting. He noted that IUFRO cooperates with partners in various formats. As examples of participation in the meetings and activities of inter-governmental processes and conventions, IUFRO representation by HQ staff at following events was noted: the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO26) of the FAO in Rome, UNFCCC COP27 in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, and the CBD COP15 in Montreal, Canada. Moreover, HQ staff attended two organized as part of the mid-term review of the International Arrangement of Forests (IAF), including an Expert Group Meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in Bangkok, Thailand and an Organization-Led Initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in Rome, Italy.

Regarding other collaborations, he mentioned the IUFRO-Mondi “Teaming up for Forests” science-business partnership (more information can be found in Doc 4.2 Report of the Executive Director) and the new project regarding the creation of a Global Wood Policy Platform in collaboration with the FAO and other partners, about which more information would be provided by the representative of the Austrian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management.

A. Buck continued by noting that all IUFRO's activities with its partners are in line with the IUFRO Strategy post-2020 and the General Rules and Procedure for Partnership Development, approved by the Board in May 2021. He added that a list of all IUFRO partners can be found on IUFRO website, where each partner has its own page and will soon include an overview of recent activities/projects with IUFRO. IUFRO HQ is working on populating this section with detailed information.

Statements by partner organizations

The Chair invited remarks by a representative of the IUFRO host country Austria, followed by representatives from other partner organizations attending the meeting.

Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML): The Chair invited Georg Rappold, Head of Division Wood-based Value Chain in the Directorate-General – Forestry and Sustainability in BML to address the Board. G. Rappold noted that in addition to providing core funding to the IUFRO Secretariat in Vienna, the BML also provides additional funding for various IUFRO programmes and projects. He highlighted the importance of enhancing the interface between science and wood policy and upscaling wood policy uptakes on the global level. In this context, a proposal by IUFRO for a new project “Towards a Global Wood Policy Platform” has been selected for funding by the Austrian Wood Fund in December 2022. The project seeks to assess existing wood policy networks and experiences, promote scientific and technical knowledge and experience exchange, and organize global and regional policy dialogues. It involves close collaboration with FAO, BOKU University and IUFRO's Division 5. The project is scheduled to run until September 2024.

National Institute of Forest Science, NIFoS: The Chair invited Dr. Bae, Jae-Soo, the President of NIFoS to address the Board virtually. Dr. Bae highlighted the IUFRO World Congress 2010 in Seoul as an example of good collaboration between IUFRO and NIFoS. He also noted the publication of the IUFRO Occasional Paper 36, collaboration in the XV World Forestry Congress in Seoul in May 2022, financial support to the SPDC workshops on FLR in Ethiopia and South Asia, and funding for the All-IUFRO Conference 2022 as examples of interaction with IUFRO. He identified forest ecosystem services as a thematic area requiring more attention in the future. On behalf of NIFoS, he looked forward to the World Congress 2024.

International Forestry Students' Association, IFSA: The Chair invited Agustin Rosello Hinrichs (Chile), IFSA President to address the Board. He started by noting that IUFRO was one of the most important partners for IFSA and IFSA students want to be the next ones to fill the roles as researchers in IUFRO. He thanked the IUFRO leadership for keeping close contact and collaboration with IFSA and expressed the wish of IFSA to have a strong presence at the World Congress 2024.

The Chair thanked all representatives of partner organizations for their statements and concluded this item by noting that a few other partners had been invited, but unfortunately could not join the meeting.

13. Strategic issues

Documents:

- *Board 3/2023 Doc 13.1 Compilation of inputs by Divisions, Task Forces and SPPs to the IUFRO Strategy Action Plan (IUFRO HQ)*

Implementing IUFRO Strategy Action Plan 2020-2024

IUFRO Operations Manager Andre Purret gave an overview of the status of implementing the Strategy Action Plan, based on the inputs submitted by all Divisions, Task Forces, Special Programmes and Projects and IUFRO HQ. He started by noting that it had been decided in 2020 to use the Strategy Action

Plan as a guiding framework for future annual reporting by IUFRO units to the IUFRO Board. All units had been asked to report on their activities against the measures of progress (indicators) of each relevant action for the first time in 2021 and now for the year 2022. Following the feedback received from units after the 2022 Board Meeting, the Action Plan had been revised and approved by the Board in December 2022 and re-filtered for relevancy. As a result of the revisions, the total number of actions to be reported by the units has decreased for Divisions (down to 26 out of 55 actions) and Task Forces (down to 19 out of 55 actions), hence reducing the overall reporting burden of units. IUFRO HQ had received input to the re-filtered action plans from all Divisions, Task Forces and SPPs. The compilation of reports by Divisions, Task Forces and SPPs had been circulated to the Board prior to this meeting (Doc 13.1).

A. Purret then provided a comparative analysis of the results of the reporting. He pointed out that the inputs received in 2021 and 2022 do not fully correlate due to changes made in the revised action plan (e.g. regarding the text of actions, units responsible or the measures of progress, two deleted actions) different reporting periods for 2021 (Board to Board) vs 2022 (aligning with the calendar year), and inconsistencies in the input received (some units reported not only for the requested period, but also about the future planned activities). Moreover, one new Task Force started its work in December 2022 and has therefore not yet reported on the Action Plan. He also noted that the statistical analysis does not give the full overall picture of implementation, as it counts the number of responses for actions, but does not indicate the content.

He clarified that the presented results of the quantitative analysis by IUFRO HQ concentrated on the input and reporting by Divisions and Task Forces, as the scientific vehicles of IUFRO, and did not take into account the implementation of Actions by Special Programmes and Projects or IUFRO HQ. The overall analysis of implementing the Action Plan as a whole post 2024 will also include these bodies.

The analysis shows that Divisions and Task Forces are well on track with reporting (not necessarily fully implementing though) on average on 82% of the relevant actions for Strategy “Goal 1 – Research Excellence: Strive for Quality, Relevance and Synergies” (83% in 2021). Compared to input from 2021, Divisions and Task Forces have stepped up reporting (from 52% to 69% on average) in 2022 on relevant actions related to “Goal 2 – Network Cooperation: Improve Communication and Embrace Diversity”. The reporting on relevant actions for “Goal 3 – Impact: Visibility, Outreach and Education” has slightly decreased in 2022 (from 47% to 44% on average) compared to 2021. In total, Divisions and Task Forces have increased reporting on all relevant actions on average from 61% in 2021 to 65% in 2022.

A. Purret then highlighted examples of the various actions that had been either reported much more or less frequently in 2022, compared to 2021. In conclusion, he noted that IUFRO Divisions and Task Forces are reporting continuously well for actions of the Strategy Goal 1 to enhance research excellence by striving for scientific quality, relevancy and synergies. Reporting by Divisions and Task Forces has improved with regards to Goal 2 related to cooperation, communication and embracing diversity in the network. At the same time, reporting continues to be low (and even decrease) for actions on Goal 3 related to impact through visibility, outreach and education.

As next steps, Divisions, Task Forces and Special Programmes and Projects will be asked by IUFRO HQ to report by the end of January 2024 on activities undertaken in 2023 and planned activities until June 2024 in the frame of the Action Plan. This would ensure the continuity of reporting and cover most of the duration of the Action Plan 2020-2024.

Action 19:

- *Divisions, Task Forces, Special Programmes and Projects, and IUFRO HQ to report on the activities undertaken in 2023 and plans until June 2024 using the filtered Strategy Action Plan as a guiding framework. Inputs from units should be submitted via online form, to be circulated by IUFRO HQ, by 31 January 2024;*

A. Purret also noted that, based on the discussion in the pre-Board meeting of the Management Committee, IUFRO HQ will identify and invite a group of IUFRO officeholders and convene an advisory committee who will evaluate the implementation of the overall Action Plan (both quantitative and qualitative assessment).

Action 20:

- *IUFRO HQ, with guidance from the MC, to identify and invite a group of IUFRO officeholders and form an advisory committee, chaired by a member of the committee, tasked with evaluating the implementation of the IUFRO Strategy Action Plan 2020-2024. The committee should be operational latest by February 2024;*

Action 21:

- *The advisory committee tasked with evaluating the implementation of the IUFRO Strategy Action Plan 2020-2024 to undertake, by June 2024, a thorough quantitative and qualitative assessment, based on the inputs received in 2021, 2023 and 2024. The results, to be presented to the MC and the Board, will be the basis for the proposal for the next IUFRO Strategy Action Plan post-2025, to be approved by the Board in its 64th Enlarged Board Meeting in 2025;*

The Chair thanked IUFRO Divisions, Task Forces, SPPs and IUFRO HQ for their active and timely reporting on the Strategy Action Plan. He also thanked A. Purret for the work done regarding the analysis of the Action Plan.

In the discussions, it was noted that the contributions by the Special Programmes and Projects, and IUFRO HQ should be captured as well when communicating the results of this analysis. A. Purret replied that the overall analysis will include all IUFRO units and bodies, but the results from reporting by Divisions and Task Forces were given a focus in his presentation, due to the time limitations for presenting under this agenda item.

Networking in the post pandemic ‘new normal’ era

As a follow-up to the discussions and actions agreed at the 61st Enlarged Board Meeting IUFRO HQ, in collaboration with the Vice-President Division, and with the assistance of Alina Lehtikoinen (former President of IFSA and current masters’ student at the University of Freiburg) was currently preparing a survey to map the experiences, challenges and expectations of IUFRO officeholders regarding the hosting of meetings, including participation and use of various formats and tools in the future. The survey will be sent to all IUFRO officeholders in due course, and the hope is to have results available already by the time of the next MC meeting in September in Ghana.

Action 22:

- *An update on the survey among IUFRO officeholders mapping their experiences, challenges and expectations regarding the hosting of meetings, including participation and use of various formats and tools, to be presented to the MC at its next meeting in September 2023 in Ghana;*

Draft organizational analysis by Task Force on Gender Equality in Forestry

As a follow-up to the agreed action from the 61st Enlarged Board Meeting, the IUFRO Task Force on Gender Equality in Forestry updated the Board about the progress with the organizational analysis undertaken by the Task Force. Gun Lidestav, the Coordinator of the Task Force, started by giving an overview of the importance of this gender analysis, and why the representation of women in forest sciences matters. She explained that the analysis undertaken by the TF is based on the following: a) Organizational structure and gender balance of IUFRO (documents and register analysis); b) surveying perceptions on gender balance and inclusion within the IUFRO network (officeholder survey 2020 and

All-IUFRO Conference 2022 survey); c) gender balance and geographical representation at past IUFRO World Congresses; and d) perspectives on IUFRO (interviews). She continued by showing visually the representation of women and men in IUFRO governing bodies and scientific structure, and highlighted selected results from the two surveys. She then explained the interplay between forest researchers, stakeholders and organizational identities. As a recommendation from the draft organizational analysis, she noted the “success in these types of development processes requires a clear vision, clearly defined goals and a systemic implementation and follow-up of actions taken to ensure intended effects and results”. Next steps towards IUFRO Gender Equality Action Plan involve 1) providing gender perspective highlights; 2) reflections and feedback; 3) identifying agents and actions of change, agreement on actions and timelines; and 4) implementation and evaluation.

In the discussions, it was agreed that the analysis is highly relevant and important for IUFRO, and the network is fortunate to have this Task Force and the expertise. It was suggested using simpler terminology and concepts to communicate in the future the work and results related to the analysis. It was noted it is time for IUFRO to go beyond the head-counting activities and discuss the culture and organizational structure, and how it impacts the quality of forest science. As a comment, it was pointed out that “gender” is currently part of Strategy Goal 2 (Network communication/embracing diversity) and not under Strategy Goal 1 (Research excellence) – that might need to be changed in the future.

Action 23:

- *The final version of the organizational analysis carried out by the IUFRO Task Force on Gender Equality in Forestry, including concrete recommendations, to be discussed at the MC meeting in September in Ghana. The MC to suggest next steps and actions to be discussed by the Board at the 63rd Enlarged Board Meeting in June 2024 in Stockholm;*

Implications for IUFRO Post-2020 Strategy and possible adjustments/updates

It was suggested moving this discussion to the next Board Meeting in June 2024 as the results regarding the implementation of the IUFRO Strategy Action Plan 2020-2024, the results of the survey among officeholders regarding experiences with the “new normal”, and the results and recommendations of the organizational analysis by the Task Force on Gender Equality in Forestry will then be available.

14. Honours and Awards Committee (HAC)

Documents:

- *Board 3/2023 Doc 14.1 Report of the Chair of the Honours and Awards Committee (HAC Chair)*
- *Board 3/2023 Doc 14.2 Nominations for IUFRO Honorary Membership (IUFRO HQ)*

The Chair of the IUFRO Honours and Awards Committee (HAC) Elena Paoletti provided an update on the developments in the HAC and its activities since the last Board Meeting. She highlighted that the deadline for the call for nominations for awards to be presented at the World Congress 2024 is 15 May 2023 and invited all Board Members to promote the call for nominations even more widely. She noted that two DSA nominations were evaluated by the HAC in 2022 and consequently approved by the Board at its last meeting – DSAs to E. Mikkola and R. Prueller. Both DSAs were handed over in the closing ceremony of the All-IUFRO Conference 2022 in Vienna. The HAC held its hybrid meeting in Vienna, during the All-IUFRO Conference. The main items discussed were the dissemination strategy for the call for awards (including several communication activities and campaigns); Conflict of Interest (COI) policy for the HAC evaluation; and prolonged deadline for Best Poster Awards (BPA) until April 2024. The HAC will plan to deliver 10 Scientific Achievement Awards (SAA); one Outstanding Doctoral Research Award (ODRA) per IUFRO Division; one IUFRO Student Award for excellence in forest

science (ISA) per IUFRO Division; and 69 Best Poster Awards (BPA) (three per each Division, Congress theme and Task Force). The remote evaluation of award nominations (except the BPAs) by HAC members is scheduled for July 2023, consensus meeting remotely in September 2023. She then further explained the procedure and evaluation of the posters for the BPAs. The HAC had also discussed the possible slots for handing of the awards at the Congress, and together with the COC had agreed to use 30 min from each plenary session (i.e. a daily session per each award such as SAA, ODRA, ISA) to hand over these awards. BPA recipients will be announced at the closing ceremony. Lastly, E. Paoletti noted that as some units have already established their own internal unit awards, all other units are encouraged to consider this possibility. The Chair thanked E. Paoletti and HAC for the work done.

The Chair informed the Board about two recent nominations for IUFRO Honorary Membership that require Board recommendation and approval by the International Council. The President has received nominations of Mike Wingfield and Björn Hånell as IUFRO Honorary Members. The Chair invited Board members to propose a related motion. Woodam Chung proposed the following motion:

MOTION 11:

- To recommend to the International Council to award IUFRO Honorary Membership to Mike Wingfield and Björn Hånell;

Seconded by Hubert Hasenauer.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Action 24:

- *Based on the recommendation by the Board, the International Council to decide on the Honorary Membership of Mike Wingfield and Björn Hånell at its meeting, to be held in conjunction with the World Congress 2024 in Stockholm;*

15. IUFRO World Congress 2024

Documents:

- *Board 3/2023 Doc 15.1 Report of the Chair of the Congress Organizing Committee (COC Chair)*
- *Board 3/2023 Doc 15.2 Report of the Chair of the Congress Scientific Committee (CSC Chair)*

Report by the Chair of the Congress Organizing Committee, COC

The Chair invited Fredrik Ingemarson, the Chair of the COC to inform the Board about the Congress arrangements and preparatory activities on behalf of the Congress Secretariat. Among the highlights from the written report, F. Ingemarson noted that the COC, including the country representatives in the region, was in the process of identifying Congress host scientific Awards (3) and was working on membership recruitment plans. Planning for the pre- and post-Congress excursions as well as for the in-Congress excursions is well on track. Resources at the Congress Secretariat have expanded and now include the director, senior advisors, PCO coordinator, operational officer, authorities coordinator and excursions coordinator. In the next months, the team will be expanded by including secretary, press secretary and graphic designer positions. He then presented the programme of the Congress week (also available on Congress website) and highlighted the various session blocks for each day. The in-Congress excursions will be held on Wednesday, June 26.

As was agreed at the last Board Meeting, the MC discussed the format (hybrid/virtual/in-person) and related programme-elements of the World Congress 2024 prior to this Board Meeting. Based on the discussions at the MC meeting held on 25 March 2023 in New Delhi, F. Ingemarson presented the

related suggestions. The World Congress 2024 will be held in an in-person format, whereas an exclusive selection of the programme (selected sessions) will be recorded and streamed for online viewing. F. Ingemarson reiterated the commitment by SLU and the Congress partner towards mobilizing financial resources to support the participation of scientists from economically disadvantaged countries.

Lastly, F. Ingemarson informed the Board about the budget status and the envisaged increases. The estimated costs will be higher than expected compared to the original budget proposed in the bid 6 years ago and new costs include coverage of lunches, streaming and digital posters. Thus there was a need to raise delegate participation fees. The aim is to still offer significantly lower fees to the delegates from economically disadvantaged countries.

The Board thanked F. Ingemarson, the team of the Congress Secretariat and the members of the COC for the progress made in preparing the Congress. In the discussions, the need for timely organization of and information about administrative unit meetings and divisional meetings was highlighted. It was added that the meetings should in general be open and the Division meetings should not be too late in the evening. The call for administrative and Division meetings should be sent out at least a half year before the Congress. In response the question whether administrative meetings and Division meetings can be hybrid, the Congress Secretariat offered to discuss this with IUFRO HQ. Additionally, it was suggested holding “meet and greet” event so that the interested scientists and officeholders could meet the outgoing and incoming Division Coordinators, Vice-Presidents for Division and the Presidents.

Action 25:

- *Congress Secretariat and IUFRO HQ to clarify the procedure and timeline for the call for administrative and Division meetings. The call to be sent out no later than half a year before the World Congress 2024;*

Responding to a question about the plans of the COC to provide full travel support to the delegates from economically disadvantaged regions, it was clarified that the Congress host organization has not yet been able to mobilize financial resources for this purpose due to changes in the overall funding priorities by the Government and significant reductions in the budget of the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency, but that options will be explored in the region and within Congress sponsors.

Action 26:

- *Congress Secretariat/COC to clarify and confirm their financial commitment to the Congress SAP programme (e.g., through a contract arrangement with IUFRO-SPDC) by the time of the MC meeting in September 2023 in Ghana;*

Regarding the format of the Congress, it was clarified that the Congress 2024 will be in-person Congress, with selected elements made available online for public at no cost. The virtual participants will be able to follow via one-way virtual format and there will be no virtual presentations for technical sessions.

Report by the Chair of the Congress Scientific Committee, CSC

J. Parrotta invited Elena Paoletti, the CSC to report on the developments regarding the CSC and the scientific planning of the Congress. She started by highlighting the call for session proposals that was a great success. In total, 293 submissions were received by the deadline in October 2022, allowing to select the very best scientific contributions that will ensure a high-profile scientific programme. The venue in Stockholm can accommodate 193 sessions, among which 175 technical sessions and 18 scientific sub-plenary sessions, complemented by 8 special sub-plenary sessions facilitated by IUFRO HQ. Among the challenges during the submission and evaluation process, the session format selection during submission process and the reduction of the timeslots for sub-plenaries from 2h to 1h were noted.

The poster presentations (up to 2.000) will be given every day in five separate poster rooms (one for each Congress theme), six screens in each room with 17 presentations per screen (3 min presentation, 2 min Q&A, and 2 min break). All posters will be in electronic format only, poster areas will be open and free to visit during the week, and the technical organization will be done by the COC.

E. Paoletti then informed the Board about the timeline and evaluation process of the session proposals, noting that it was a two-step process involving the PCO, divisional panellists/reviewers and the CSC. As a result, each of the 9 Divisions has one dedicated sub-plenary session and each of the 8 Task Forces has one dedicated sub-plenary session, with the exception of the TF on Gender Equality in Forestry, which received one additional slot. The final distribution of accepted technical sessions among Divisions is slightly biased, with D2, D3 and D7 slightly under-represented and D1, D8 and D9 slightly over-represented. The final distribution of accepted sessions among Congress Themes is well-balanced. A summary of all accepted sessions is available at https://iufro2024.com/wp-content/uploads/IUFRO_2024-List_of_Sessions-1-1.pdf. The call for abstracts is now open until 2 June 2023 at <https://iufro2024.com/call-for-congress-abstracts/>.

E. Paoletti further clarified that all contributions to a session must be submitted in the Call for Abstracts, including speakers in panel discussions. Session organizers will evaluate the abstracts and decide on the type, length of a talk and session. During the abstract review (mid June - mid August 2023), the session organizers will be given four options: accept as oral, accept as poster, reject or move to another session. In the second review step (mid August - mid September), they will have to evaluate the abstracts that were possibly re-allocated to their session. Authors will be informed if their presentation is accepted by 30 October 2023. In order to remain in the programme, the registration deadline for Presenting Authors of accepted abstracts is 15 January 2024. Authors are limited to a max. of two abstracts as presenting author. The CSC Chair expressed her sincere appreciation for the excellent job carried out so far by the CSC members, evaluation sub-panellists, Andreas Andersson and the PCO team, and Carola Egger from HQ.

In the discussions, it was re-confirmed that all speakers (also for the pre-designed sessions) need to submit abstracts by the deadline, to be entered and tracked in the system. E. Paoletti highlighted that the structure of the presentations in each session is up to the session organizers. Responding to a question about the early bird fee and other deadlines, it was noted that the early bird deadline is 15 January 2024 and that all deadlines can be found on the Congress website.

The Board expressed its thanks to E. Paoletti and the members of the CSC for the excellent progress made in developing the scientific programme of the Congress.

16. IUFRO Finances and Fundraising

Documents:

- Board 3/2023 Doc 16.1 Preliminary financial overview of the year 2022 (IUFRO HQ)
 - Board 3/2023 Doc 16.2 Proposal for changes to the IUFRO Internal Regulations (IUFRO HQ)
- Preliminary financial overview 2022

Astrid Toppel (IUFRO Finances and Administration) presented an overview of the preliminary financial figures for the year 2022 (see Board Doc 16.1). She noted that due to the extraordinary timing of the current Board Meeting, the financial figures have not yet been audited by a third-party auditor in Austria. This audit will only take place in May 2023 and the final version, to be approved by the Board, can only be seen thereafter. Regarding the information on budget status 2023, it was noted that also this overview is not informative due to the timing of the current Board Meeting (only January and February 2023).

figures could be looked at). The Board noted with appreciation the preliminary financial overview for the year 2022.

Procedure for approving financial statement 2022 and budget proposal 2024

IUFRO HQ suggested the following procedure for approving audited financial statement 2022 and budget proposal 2024: 1) once audited, the financial statement 2022 would be sent to the MC for its review; 2) after the MC review and recommendations, the Board would approve the income and expenditures of the Union in 2022 and release the President and Executive Director of legal obligations deriving from financial issues and the annual account 2022 via electronic ballot vote in June-July 2023. The procedure (MC review, Board approval) and timeline would be the same for budget proposal 2024.

Action 27:

- *The audited financial statement 2022 and budget proposal 2024 to be submitted for review by the MC in June 2023, followed by the approval of both documents by the Board via electronic Board ballot vote in June-July 2023;*

Fundraising activities

A. Buck communicated that information about detailed fundraising activities by IUFRO HQ can be found in the report of the Executive Director (Board Doc 4.2). He noted that the resource mobilization by IUFRO HQ is on track and thanked all IUFRO's funding partners for their continued support. It was noted that the financial result of the All-IUFRO Conference 2022 had been balanced so that there was no need to tap into the Strategic Fund.

Revision of IUFRO Internal Regulations

A. Purret presented a proposal to revise IUFRO Internal Regulations. He clarified that the main goal of this revision, endorsed by the MC, was to remove the exact amounts of membership fees from the Internal Regulations. Previously, whenever the membership subscription fees were changed and approved by the Board, the Internal Regulations had to be also changed and approved by the Board. The responsible authorities in IUFRO's Host Country Austria, including the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance (Finanzamt), have confirmed that it is not required by the local law to include the specific membership subscription rates and in the Statutes and Internal Regulations. Thus, it has been suggested to remove the exact fee rates from the document and maintain the general principles of calculating the diverse membership fee rates for both IUFRO Member Organizations and Associate Members (see Doc 16.2). It was noted that all changes in the Statutes require a formal approval by the International Council, based on Board's recommendation. The changes in the Internal Regulations, require Board approval only.

There were no questions or comments from the Board, therefore the Chair invited Board members to propose a related motion. Hubert Hasenauer proposed the following motion:

MOTION 12:

- To approve changes in IUFRO Internal Regulations, endorsed by the MC, as described in Board Document 16.2;

Seconded by Mike Wingfield.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Action 28:

- *IUFRO HQ to circulate the revised IUFRO Internal Regulations, approved by the Board, to the IUFRO International Council for information;*

17. IUFRO Communications

Document:

- Board 3/2023 Doc 17.1 Report on communication activities (IUFRO HQ)

Summary of activities since the 61st EBM

IUFRO Executive Director A. Buck provided highlights from the related background document. He noted that, as reported at the Board Meeting in September 2022, and thanks to the generous support provided by BML, IUFRO HQ has been able to grow its communications team. José Bolaños has joined Gerda Wolfrum and Brigitte Burger in September 2022. Moreover, Carola Egger continues to lead the information systems redesign and overhaul of IUFRO webpage. Highlights included a new podcast series “Branching out” that is being developed and will be launched in the next few weeks. The first season focuses on World Congress 2024 and will be available on all podcast platforms and on website. The recent launch of the GFEP assessment on Forests and Human Health attracted significant media attention, especially in IUFRO’s host country Austria where it was covered by the television, public radio, high-quality newspapers and online media. Already in October 2022, IUFRO together with FAO and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) presented the Global Assessment of Forest Education at the 26th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 26)/World Forest Week in Rome. The various social media continued to grow, with the strongest growth on LinkedIn, which has more than doubled its followers in a year. A. Buck ended by noting that most of the activities in the coming month will focus on the upcoming World Congress 2024.

In the discussions, it was noted that also Board members have a big role in promoting the upcoming World Congress 2024, including the call for abstracts which is currently open. All members of the Board were asked to spread information about the Congress and related updates as widely as possible.

Update on Information Systems Redesign, including website

IUFRO Deputy Executive Director M. Kleine provided an update on the redesign of IUFRO’s knowledge and information systems. He noted that IUFRO HQ has worked intensively on building internal skills for planning and redesign of the website. Activities in 2022 have been implemented based on in-house expertise and experiences using available and newly mobilized project funding. As an immediate next step, a programming company would be contracted as a result of a comprehensive tendering process so that the re-design on IUFRO’s information systems, including the webpage, can be completed in the last quarter of 2023, as planned. Recalling the earlier agreement to allocate up to EUR 100.000 from IUFRO’s Strategic Fund for the website redesign, M. Kleine informed the Board that the Strategic Fund has not been used so far, but that most external costs, i.e., related to programming, will occur in 2023. IUFRO HQ will undertake all efforts to also cover expenses in 2023 through existing resources and donor funds, but seeks permission by the Board to use up to 40.000 EUR from the Strategic Fund if the need arises.

The Enlarged Board took note of the reports by IUFRO HQ and the Chair thanked all presenters. As wishes, Board members noted the e-mail ID option through website (instead of using personal e-mail addresses as done until now), training materials (e.g., video tutorials) on how to operate and use the website, listing of communication officers in units etc.

18. Major IUFRO meetings and other events

Documents:

- Board 3/2023 Doc 18.1 Updated schedule of IUFRO Board, MC and other meetings (IUFRO HQ)
- Board 3/2023 Doc 18.2 Flyer – IUFRO Latin American Conference 2023

The Chair informed the Board about the updated schedule of IUFRO Board and MC Meetings and other events until the end of the Board term in June 2024. The Chair invited Rajesh Sharma from ICFRE to inform the Board about the final logistical updates regarding the International Symposium on Intersectoral Cooperation for Resilient Landscapes, including the field trip to be held subsequently to the Board Meeting in Dehradun, India 2023 (29-30 March 2023). Erich Schaitza, IUFRO President's Nominee for Latin America provided brief updates about the IUFRO Latin American Regional Conference - Sustainable Landscape Management: the Role of Forests, Forestry, Agroforestry, and Agriculture, to be held in Curitiba, Brazil (17-19 October 2023). The Board took note of the information presented and the Chair thanked all presenters and meeting organizers for their efforts.

19. Other items and evaluation of the meeting

The Chair invited participants to bring any other items to the attention of the Board. Participants thanked ICFRE for the hospitality and venue. The hybrid set up of the meeting had worked well for the virtual participants. A. Buck explained that IUFRO HQ welcomes any feedback from the participants.

20. Closure of the meeting

The IUFRO President as Chair of the meeting thanked the Board Members, invited participants and IUFRO HQ staff for their active contributions and support during the meeting as well as behind the scenes.

Annex I: List of participants in alphabetical order

IUFRO Enlarged Board:

Jeremy Allison – Coordinator, Task Force on *Precision Pest Management* (virtual)
Annie Biju – Co-Coordinator, Joint IUFRO-IFSA Task Force on *Forest Education*
Andreas Bolte – Coordinator, Task Force on *Transforming Forest Landscapes for Future Climates and Human Well-Being* (virtual)
Purabi Bose – Deputy Coordinator, Division 6 – Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry (virtual)
Alexander Buck – IUFRO Executive Director
Woodam Chung – Coordinator, Division 3 – Forest Operations Engineering and Management
Mónica Gabay – Coordinator, Division 9 – Forest Policy and Economics
Santiago C. González-Martínez – Coordinator, Division 2 – Physiology and Genetics
Hubert Hasenauer – President’s Nominee advising on resource mobilization
Agustin Rosello Hinrichs – President, International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA)
Donald Hodges – Coordinator, Division 4 – Forest Assessment, Modelling and Management (virtual)
Fredrik Ingemarson – Chair, Congress Organizing Committee (COC), IUFRO World Congress 2024
Magdalena Jovanovic – Head of IUFRO Sub-Commission, International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA)
Pia Katila – Coordinator, Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment (WFSE) (virtual)
Michael Kleine – IUFRO Deputy Executive Director; Coordinator, IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities (SPDC)
Daniela Kleinschmit – IUFRO Vice-President Divisions
Gun Lidestav – Coordinator, Task Force on *Gender Equality in Forestry* (virtual)
Shirong Liu – IUFRO Vice-President Task Forces, Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives
Sandra S. Luque – Coordinator, Division 8 – Forest Environment (virtual)
Peter Mayer – Coordinator, IUFRO Special Programme Directors’ Forum
Elena Paoletti – Chair, Congress Scientific Committee (CSC), IUFRO World Congress 2024; Chair, Honours and Awards Committee (HAC); Deputy Coordinator, Division 8 – Forest Environment
John A. Parrotta – IUFRO President
Maria Patek – IUFRO Headquarters host country Austria representative
Tod Ramsfield – Coordinator, Division 7 – Forest Health
Georg Rappold – IUFRO Headquarters host country Austria additional representative
Pekka Saranpää – Coordinator, Division 5 – Forest Products (virtual)
Erich Gomes Schaitza – President’s Nominee for liaison with Latin America
Kugbo Shim – President’s Nominee for liaison with Asia (virtual)
Jens Peter Skovsgaard – Coordinator, Division 1 – Silviculture
Christoph Wildburger – Coordinator, Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) Programme
Michael J. Wingfield – IUFRO Immediate Past President
Wubalem Tadesse Wondifraw – President’s Nominee for liaison with Africa
Wenfa Xiao – President’s Nominee for liaison with China

Invited participants:

Nicola Alexander – Representative of Canada bid for the host of the IUFRO World Congress 2029
Jae Soo Bae – President, National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Republic of Korea
Joshua Cheboiwo – Representative of Kenya bid for the host of the IUFRO World Congress 2029

Nadir Erbilgin – Representative of Canada bid for the host of the IUFRO World Congress 2029

Mercy Gichora – Representative of Kenya bid for the host of the IUFRO World Congress 2029

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

Arun Singh Rawat – Director-General, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)

Rajesh Sharma – Assistant Director General (External Project), the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)

Hwajin Yang – National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS), Republic of Korea

IUFRO Headquarters:

José Bolaños – Communications Manager (*virtual*)

Brigitte Burger – Web Management and Social Media, Network Communication (*virtual*)

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

Andre Purret – Operations Manager

Astrid Toppel – Finances and Administration