

**From:**

Professor Dr. Mike Wingfield, IUFRO President  
IUFRO Headquarters – Secretariat

**To:**

International Council Representatives 2015-2019

**Subject:**

Circular letter by the IUFRO President

**Dear Members of the IUFRO International Council,  
Dear Colleagues,**

At the outset, let me take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very happy and healthy 2018. The New Year has only just begun. Yet we are already actively moving towards achieving some important new goals and objectives for IUFRO. This, as we embark on the 126th year of our amazing and important organisation. Simply being part of the oldest international scientific organisation in the world is an honour and something special. And, having opportunities to contribute to the many important roles that IUFRO plays in promoting forest research is also a privilege, that I appreciate and I know this is also true for you.

Our IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress, together with the associated Board and Management Committee meetings in Freiburg, Germany are now events of the past. And it is again time for me to follow up on my promise made in 2014 to provide you with occasional reports on some of our recent activities and events.

➤ It is with great pride that we can say now that the **IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress in Freiburg, Germany, was a resounding success**. Amongst many other factors, the congress provided a superb opportunity to celebrate IUFRO's past achievements, present state-of-the-art science and to discuss the future of forests and forestry. The great success of the event would not have been possible without the enormous and active participation of forest scientists, forest natural-resources professionals and stakeholders.

Please use the following links for more Congress information:

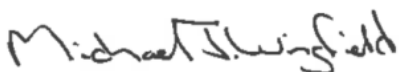
- The submitted abstracts can be found in the abstract book online:  
[http://iufro2017.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/AbstractIUFRO17\\_III.pdf](http://iufro2017.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/AbstractIUFRO17_III.pdf)
- Photo impressions of the congress can be found at the congress website:  
<http://iufro2017.com/impressions/>
- Further, the live stream recording is available on the website at  
<http://live.iufro2017.com>
- And finally, additional facts and figures of the Anniversary Congress can be found in IUFRO News, Double Issue 9 & 10, 2017:

<https://www.iufro.org/publications/news/electronic-news/io-news-1709-10/#c26914>

- The 125 year Anniversary **celebrations began at the very birthplace of IUFRO in Eberswalde**, near Berlin, with a meeting of the Management Committee and a commemorative event successfully organized by the team of Andreas Bolte at the Thünen Institute. The event was honoured by the presence of former President Walter Liese (1977-1981), who kindly presented me with the foundation protocol of IUFRO now to be kept in Eberswalde, for picture see [https://www.iufro.org/fileadmin/processed/csm\\_news17-9-10-Wingfield-Liese-Eberswalde-AB\\_fe96ccefc5.jpg](https://www.iufro.org/fileadmin/processed/csm_news17-9-10-Wingfield-Liese-Eberswalde-AB_fe96ccefc5.jpg);
- **IUFRO Logo now with a slogan** At the Anniversary Congress in Freiburg, the new slogan of IUFRO – Interconnecting Forests, Science and People - was officially launched. For the launch, IUFRO presented a short video that explains the slogan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBYEyzuJmsQ>. The slogan will from now on be an integral part of the IUFRO logo. Write to <office(at)iufro.org> and IUFRO HQ will send the new logo to you.
- Highlights from the **IUFRO Board meeting in Freiburg**:
  - Following two years of energetic work, the ten **IUFRO Task Forces** completed their terms at the end of 2017 and presented the results of the work to the IUFRO Board at its meeting in September 2017. Eight Task Forces requested to continue their activities until the 2019 Board meeting in Curitiba and prepared detailed proposals for consideration by the IUFRO Board. The Board approved the continuation of all eight Task Forces by electronic ballot vote in December 2017.
  - The Chair of the very active and dynamic **Review Panel 2017** presented recommendations and highlights of their report at the IUFRO Board meeting in September. Their findings will be basis for the next IUFRO Strategy 2019-2024. The Board members have been invited to provide feedback in writing on the Review Panel's recommendations, and possibly prioritize actions. Their feedback will also be used by the MC when preparing the first draft of the Strategy. If you, as member of the IUFRO International Council, are interested in **sharing your thoughts on the Review Panel's recommendations**, IUFRO HQ will be pleased to send you the link to the review document.
- At the IUFRO Anniversary Congress, participants were treated to an expose of what we can look forward to at our **XXV IUFRO World Congress in October 2019 in Curitiba, Brazil**. Preparations for this important event are now seriously underway. The theme of the XXV World Congress 2019, as proposed by the Congress Organizing Committee (COC) and Congress Scientific Committee (CSC) was approved by the Board in Freiburg. This will be "**Forest research and cooperation for sustainable development**" *[/Portuguese] Pesquisa florestal e cooperação para o desenvolvimento sustentável / [Spanish] Investigación forestal y cooperación para el desarrollo sostenible*. It is only two more years until we meet for the first time at an IUFRO World Congress in a Latin American country. We are excited about this important opportunity and the COC and CSC will soon publish a timeline leading up to the Congress!

- **Honours and Awards.** Last March (2017) the **call for nominations for awards** to be presented at the IUFRO World Congress 2019 was distributed. These awards include the Scientific Achievement Award (SAA), the Outstanding Doctoral Research Award (ODRA) and the IUFRO Student Award for Excellence in Forest Science (ISA). I cordially invite you to submit nominations for these prestigious awards. Please do not miss this fantastic opportunity! <https://www.iufro.org/news/article/2017/03/06/iufro-world-congress-2019-nominations-for-awards/>
- In addition to the above, there are also other IUFRO Awards for which nominations can be made at any time. These are for example the IUFRO Distinguished Service Award and IUFRO Honorary Membership. Take the time and check the IUFRO website <https://www.iufro.org/discover/awards/> and learn more about these opportunities to recognise the accomplishments of your colleagues.
- **IUFRO-EFI Young Scientists Initiative (YSI)!** This latest collaboration between IUFRO and the European Forest Institute (EFI), presents an opportunity for five young scientists from Africa, Asia and Latin America to conduct collaborative research in Europe starting in 2018. The YSI will entail a short scientific visit to be hosted by a European forest science organization where the grantee will work on a scientific collaboration project with another European scientist. IUFRO and EFI are offering EUR 5000 per grantee. We have had an excellent response to this initiative and the process of selecting successful candidates is now underway. If you were involved in encouraging candidates to apply – thank you for your efforts. For more information on the YSI initiative, please see: <https://www.iufro.org/science/special/spdc/ysi/>. We hope to expand such young scientist collaboration and mentorship programmes in the future and we are actively seeking funding to do so. We would welcome any suggestions that you might have for us in this regard.
- The year ahead is already packed with IUFRO scientific meetings and publications. We are also heavily involved in preparations for building up the new IUFRO Strategy 2019-2024, finalizing recommendations for the new IUFRO Board posts 2019, promoting our many activities at the science-policy interface and setting the scene for the XXV IUFRO World Congress in Curitiba, Brazil. Against this background, I hope to meet you during the year at a IUFRO meeting and look forward to opportunities to working with you on IUFRO projects. Your support is appreciated and your suggestions always welcome!! As a member of IUFRO's International Council you represent the highest governing body of IUFRO and thus play a crucial role in the future of the World's most important forestry research organisation. THANK YOU for the role you play.

Again, I wish you all success and happiness in 2018.



Mike Wingfield  
*IUFRO President*