

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,

As we approach the Festive Season, I again have the opportunity to share with you, some of the activities that have occupied another busy and exciting IUFRO year. Furthermore, to briefly consider activities that will occupy the year ahead. But most importantly, to thank you for supporting IUFRO's work in your very important role as a MEMBER OF IUFRO's INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL.

As I am sure you are aware, 2018 has been decisive in many ways with regard to IUFRO's future. Importantly, you contributed in the decision-making process by voting on the **future IUFRO leadership 2019-2024** and on the host country for the IUFRO World Congress 2024. This was the first time in IUFRO's history that we requested your approval of the recommendations for incoming leadership 2019-2024 one year ahead of holding the World Congress. This decision emerged from a recommendation of the IUFRO Board at our meeting in Oregon and has the advantage that incoming Board members will now have time to prepare for their term in advance of its commencement after our World Congress. Furthermore, this approach allows the new Board members to begin the process of assembling a globally balanced and more diverse coordination team particularly within the Divisions of IUFRO. I again commend the IUFRO Board on making this recommendation and thank you for supporting a new and much more effective manner of managing our business.

The IUFRO Board was delighted to recommend to the International Council that the **IUFRO World Congress 2024** will be held in Stockholm, Sweden-Nordic Baltic. I am convinced that this will be another outstanding IUFRO World Congress. You will be interested to know that in true IUFRO form, preparations have already begun (now six years in advance).

But in the much closer term, we are now in the final stages of preparing for what will be IUFRO's first World Congress to be held in Latin America. The **XXV IUFRO WORLD**

CONGRESS with the theme "*Forest Research and Cooperation for Sustainable Development*" will take place in less than a year from 29 September to 5 October 2018 in Curitiba, Brazil (<http://iufro2019.com/>). We very much look forward to your attendance at the World Congress in Brazil and ask you to mark the dates in your calendars. This is the only time that members of our International Council all meet in one place and important decisions are made at these meetings. Please also help us spread the information about the Congress to IUFRO members and officeholders in your respective countries.

Our Brazilian hosts, the Brazilian Forest Service and Embrapa are working closely with us and a range of partners to prepare what promises to be a fascinating Congress full of premium science and verve. The Congress Scientific Committee has already received a record number of 365 session proposals and is currently inviting abstracts for presentations. The deadline for **submission of abstracts is 31 December 2018**. Your support in promoting the submission of abstracts from your country and its many forestry institutions will be highly appreciated. Our World Congresses have always attracted a very wide global participation and we expect that the same will be true for our Curitiba Congress.

As it has been the case at past IUFRO World Congresses, the IUFRO International Council will meet in order to provide strategic guidance to IUFRO and take decisions shaping its future. The **International Council Meeting** in Curitiba will focus on developing a new IUFRO Strategy for the period 2019-2024. Well before the Congress you will receive a draft outline of the strategy for your consideration. Your guidance and input will play an important part in enabling the IUFRO Board to finalize the Strategy in the months following the Congress. My sincere appeal to you is to prepare for this meeting in Curitiba and to help IUFRO to develop the best possible future strategy.

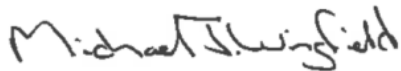
Other than assisting IUFRO in finalizing our future strategy, at our International Council meeting in Curitiba, you will be asked to vote on a number of recommendations by the IUFRO Board. Furthermore, you will also have sufficient time to express your opinions and discuss items of concern with your colleagues and the IUFRO leadership. But in advance of this important meeting, I would like to invite you to contact us if you have issues in mind or **suggestions for improvement in the operations of IUFRO that you might wish to address**. Clearly, we wish to establish an exciting agenda for the IC meetings at the Congress and enter into a fruitful dialogue with you! Please do not miss this opportunity to engage with us and to help build the future of IUFRO!

You might already have seen, but if not, please allow me to bring to your attention the fact that IUFRO has just issued a **Call for Task Force Proposals**. Task Forces are established on a temporary basis to advance inter-disciplinary forest science cooperation in fields spanning IUFRO Divisions' interests. They consequently play an important role in reinforcing and expanding the science collaboration of our global network. If you have had exposure to our last suite of Task Forces, I am sure that you will agree that they have had very significant impact. You can find the call for Task Force proposals at

<https://www.iufro.org/news/article/2018/11/13/call-for-task-force-proposals/>. Once more, we would be most grateful for your support in sharing the call with the member organizations and officeholders in your country so as to attract a good number of excellent proposals on a diverse range of topics.

As I have already repeated in previous letters, you belong to an amazing and extensive network of forest researchers. I thus hope that you will take every opportunity to make use of this resource. Thank you for contributing to our network and for your continued advice and service to IUFRO. And please do not hesitate to contact me directly if I can assist you in building the interests of IUFRO.

With best wishes for a relaxing holiday season, I look forward to meeting you in person at the XXV IUFRO World Congress in Curitiba 2019,



Mike Wingfield
IUFRO President