

From:

Dr. John A. Parrotta, IUFRO President
IUFRO Headquarters – Secretariat

To:

International Council Representatives 2019-2024

Subject:

Circular letter by the IUFRO President

Dear representative to the IUFRO International Council,
Dear alternate representative,

I hope that you, your families and colleagues have all been well during this past year since I last wrote to you.

I am pleased to report that – despite the pandemic-induced challenges we have all been facing – IUFRO's global network for forest science collaboration remains strong, active and adaptive. A great example of this is the recent [IUFRO World Day](#) (held on September 28-29). This innovative digital event, which attracted over 3000 registrants from over 115 countries, included 24 hours of live sessions on the full range of forest-related research topics, the work of our member organizations and emerging issues relevant for policy makers. This event demonstrated the ability of the IUFRO network to effectively embrace new technologies to create meaningful opportunities for meetings, networking and knowledge sharing in spite of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you will see from the [minutes of our 2021 Enlarged Board meeting](#) which was held virtually on September 22nd-24th, there has been an impressive level of activity across IUFRO's Divisions (and their many Research Groups and Working Parties), Task Forces, and Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led initiatives. IUFRO's [partnerships](#) are also expanding - we now have very fruitful collaborative arrangements with about 40 inter-governmental, governmental, private sector and non-governmental institutions.

Among the many important decisions made by the Board to help us implement our post-2020 Strategy and strategic goals, was the recommendation of some important changes to IUFRO Statutes. These changes were recently approved by you, the International Council, for which I thank you. One of these changes which we can all be proud of is the introduction of dual coordination of IUFRO Divisions, beginning in the next IUFRO Board term. This change will result in a significant improvement in both the gender and geographic balance in IUFRO's Voting Board composition. I am confident that it will lead to improved representation *throughout* the IUFRO structure and expand involvement of all forest scientists worldwide in IUFRO's activities.

Looking ahead, planning efforts are well advanced for an exciting [XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden](#). Setting our sights further into the future, the bidding process has already been [opened for the 2029 Congress](#) – the deadline for submission of bids is 15 April 2022.

As always, I encourage you to write to me if you have any suggestions for how IUFRO can further improve to serve our members and continuously improve our global network for forest science collaboration, interconnecting forest, science and people for a better world.

I wish you all the very best during this holiday season, and a happy, healthy, peaceful and fulfilling New Year ahead.

With warm regards,

John Parrotta
IUFRO President