

15 December 2022

From:

Dr. John 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 would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your support and commitment to IUFRO during this past year. Thanks to our individual and collective efforts, not to mention the dedication and leadership provided by the IUFRO Headquarters team in Vienna, we have much to show for our work in 2022. The IUFRO network continues to provide a stable and resilient platform for global collaboration in forest science and its application to a number of the environmental, economic, and social challenges we face. Our activities this past year have included a diversity of meetings, workshops, training activities and other networking events, as well as the production of numerous influential publications. Among the many excellent events organized this past year, of particular note was the [All-IUFRO Conference: Forests in a Volatile World – Global Collaboration to Sustain Forests and Their Societal Benefits](#). This event brought together more than 160 participants on site (in Vienna) and 580 participants online, all together representing 85 countries.

During our 2022 Enlarged Board meeting which was held as a hybrid event in Vienna on September 19th-20th, a number of actions were taken to help us implement our post-2020 Strategy and strategic goals. These included refinements of the terms of references for IUFRO officeholders, which were approved by you, the members of the International Council, last month.

It has been a year of transition for networking activities within IUFRO with respect to the balance of in-person and online engagement. Following two years of nearly exclusively virtual events organized by Divisions and their Research Groups and Working Parties, IUFRO Task Forces, and our Special Programmes and Projects, the 90 scientific meetings and other events organized worldwide in 2022 were evenly split between online and in-person (or hybrid) formats. Over these past three years, we have learned much in our efforts to adapt our networking and communications strategies to the limitations imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The lessons learned will enable us to optimize the values of in-person, hybrid and online networking options, in order to broaden and enhance participation while lessening our collective carbon footprint associated with physical meetings.

IUFRO's [partnerships](#) are thriving - we now has very fruitful collaborative arrangements with about 40 inter-governmental, governmental, private sector and non-governmental institutions. Several of these partnerships involve important financial support for IUFRO activities, especially for our Special Programmes and Projects, for which we are truly grateful.

IUFRO continues to play a significant role on the world stage through our engagement in a number of policy fora including the UN Forum on Forests, our leadership of joint initiatives of [Collaborative Partnership on Forests](#) including the [Global Forest Expert Panels](#), and our participation in important global forest-related events. For example, at the [XV World Forestry Congress](#) organized by FAO and the Korea Forest Service in Seoul, IUFRO contributed significantly to the development of the program, and our work was highly visible throughout the event.

Looking ahead to 2023, preparations for the upcoming [XXVI IUFRO World Congress](#) in Stockholm – already well underway - will certainly accelerate. It will be a great Congress, thanks to the incredible work and enthusiasm of the Congress Organizing Committee, the Congress Scientific Committee, IUFRO Headquarters, and the hundreds of IUFRO officeholders who are already involved in the organization of technical and sub-plenary sessions. During our next Board meeting, to be held in Dehradun (India) in late March 2023, we will discuss and make recommendations to the International Council on the host/location of the XXVII IUFRO World Congress in 2029, as well as the appointments of the President, Vice-Presidents, and Division Co-coordinators for the 2024-2029 Board term.

The IUFRO World Congress 2024 in Stockholm provides us with another opportunity to honour outstanding scientific achievements and contributions to forestry with a range of IUFRO Awards. I invite you to nominate suitable candidates for the various categories of awards and thereby enhance the global visibility of excellent scientists from member organizations in your respective countries. The [call for nominations](#) can be found on the IUFRO website. The deadline for submission of nominations will be 15th May 2023.

As always, I encourage you to write to me if you have any suggestions for how IUFRO can further serve our members and improve our collective efforts to interconnect forests, science, and people for a better world.

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

With warm regards and best wishes,

John Parrotta
IUFRO President