

From:

Dr. John Parrotta, IUFRO President
IUFRO Headquarters – Secretariat

To:

IUFRO Members and IUFRO Officeholders

Subject:

Circular letter by the IUFRO President

Dear IUFRO members,
Dear IUFRO officeholders,

As we approach the end of 2021, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your dedication and commitment to IUFRO during this past year. Despite the challenges that we have all faced, our IUFRO network has remained strong, active, and resilient in the face of the many challenges and new realities we face.

Through all of our efforts, and the phenomenal support of IUFRO's dedicated headquarters staff in Vienna, we have made tremendous progress during this past year. Although in-person events were rare this year due to the ongoing pandemic, we have all pivoted to virtual options for our networking activities, with an impressive number of online meetings, webinars, and workshops. These events, organized by officeholders in our Divisional Working Parties and Research Groups, Task Forces, and our Special Programmes and Projects, have kept the IUFRO spirit alive and well. IUFRO's [partnerships](#) are also thriving - we now have very fruitful collaborative arrangements with about 40 inter-governmental, governmental, private sector and non-governmental institutions.

Our recent innovative digital event [IUFRO World Day](#) (on September 28-29), which many of you had key roles in, attracted over 3000 registrants from over 115 countries. This unique event, featuring sessions across the spectrum of forest-related research topics, science-policy dialogues, and the work of our member organizations, demonstrated the ability of IUFRO to effectively embrace new technologies to create meaningful opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing.

During its (virtual) 60th Enlarged Board meeting in September, a number of important decisions were made that will be instrumental for implementing our post-2020 Strategy and its strategic goals. Among these were decisions related to the modernization of IUFRO's knowledge and information management, and changes to IUFRO Statutes (approved by our International Council earlier this month) that included the introduction of dual coordination of IUFRO Divisions, beginning in the next IUFRO Board term following the [2024 Congress in Stockholm](#). This important change was designed to

significantly improve both the gender and geographic balance in IUFRO's Voting Board composition. I am confident that it will also lead to improved representation throughout the IUFRO structure and expand involvement of all forest scientists worldwide in IUFRO's activities. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or the IUFRO headquarters for more detailed information about the decisions by the Board.

Looking ahead to 2022, plans are well advanced for our [Regional Conference](#) "Sustaining the Forests of Russia and Eurasia: Management, Innovation, Conservation and Restoration", to be held in Moscow from 23-25 September by the Bauman Moscow State Technical University, Mytishi Branch. Prior to this major event, which we hope you will be participating in, the 61st Enlarged Board Meeting will be hosted by the St. Petersburg State Forest Technical University. Setting our sights further, the bidding process has already been [opened for the host of the 2029 Congress](#) – the deadline for submission of bids is 15 April 2022.

Again, I thank you for your many contributions to IUFRO during this past year and look forward to working with (and for!) you in the coming year. As always, please feel free to share your ideas on how IUFRO can further improve our 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