

IUFRO International Council (IC) meeting 27 June 2024, Stockholm, Sweden

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING

04 September 2024

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The meeting of the IUFRO International Council (IC) took place on 27 June 2024 at the Stockholmsmässan Exhibition & Congress Centre, room T1, Stockholm, Sweden, on the occasion of the XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024. IUFRO President John Parrotta as the Chair of the IC presided over the meeting.

A list of participants of the IC meeting can be found in Annex 1.

1. Opening and recognition of quorum; tour de table

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the International Council (IC) as well as the observers. He explained the role of the IC, noting that it is the highest governing body in IUFRO, and among its tasks is advising the President and the Board on major issues concerning IUFRO's policy and strategy.

J. Parrotta informed the IC that, as of the time of this meeting, IUFRO had members in 121 countries, of which 68 countries have nominated their representatives to the International Council. Consistent with the IUFRO Statutes and Internal Regulations, 17 country members (more than a quarter of the IC members), are required for a quorum. IUFRO HQ Operations Manager Andre Purret noted that 24 main representatives, 9 alternate representatives, and representatives from 5 countries nominated through a Power of Authority, from a total of 37 countries are attending the meeting. Therefore, a quorum has been reached, enabling decision-making by the IC. The IC representatives have also had the opportunity to give a proxy vote mandating the IUFRO President to vote on their behalf. By the time of the meeting 2 proxy votes (New Zealand; Iran) had been submitted to the President and IUFRO HQ.

The President invited all participants to introduce themselves briefly in a tour de table.

2. Adoption of the agenda and call for additions

Documents:

- *IC 6/2024 Doc 2.1: Draft agenda (IUFRO HQ)*
- *IC 6/2024 Doc 2.2: Annotated draft agenda (IUFRO HQ)*

The Chair presented the draft agenda and called for any changes or additions to the agenda. No proposals for changes or additions were suggested and the Chair proposed the following motion:

MOTION 1:

- To adopt the agenda of the IUFRO International Council Meeting held during the XXVI IUFRO World Congress;

Seconded by P. Mayer (Austria).

The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Approval of draft Minutes of last IC meeting held on 02 October 2019

Document:

- *IC 6/2024 Doc 3.1: Minutes of the 2019 IC meeting (IUFRO HQ)*

The Chair noted that the draft Minutes of the 2019 IC meetings were circulated in December 2019, and posted as a background document for the current meeting. He communicated to

the delegates that there were no actions pending from the Minutes of the Curitiba 2019 IC Meeting. The following motion was proposed by the Chair:

MOTION 2:

- To approve the Minutes of the last IC Meeting held on 02 October 2019 during the XXV IUFRO World Congress in Curitiba, Brazil;

Seconded by M. Tomé (Portugal).

The motion was carried unanimously.

4. Reports of IUFRO President, Vice-Presidents and Executive Director

Documents:

- *IC 6/2024 Doc 4.1: Report of the President (John Parrotta)*
- *IC 6/2024 Doc 4.2: Report of the Vice-President Divisions (Daniela Kleinschmit)*
- *IC 6/2024 Doc 4.3: Report of the Vice-President Task Forces (Shirong Liu)*
- *IC 6/2024 Doc 4.4: Report of the Executive Director (Alexander Buck) incl. Finance Report*

Written reports have been submitted by the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Executive Director to the IC as meeting background documents and were considered as read. Oral highlights of information of relevance were provided by the presenters, and questions and comments were recorded.

Report of the President

John Parrotta looked back at his goals and objectives set for the 2019-2024 Board term. He highlighted the achievements related to the expansion of collaboration (including with new partners beyond forest science), engagement in multiple sectors (e.g., through the work of the IUFRO Special Programmes and Projects, integrating different disciplines and sectors), increasing involvement of scientists from underrepresented regions, and increasing diversity of officeholders (including the move towards a more gender-balanced structure). He noted that while the COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges to IUFRO and networking, new technologies and formats for activities within the network were adopted swiftly, and the adaption to new conditions and contexts helped to keep the network engaged. He then thanked the staff of IUFRO HQ, and members of the Board and Management Committee for their commitment throughout the term. J. Parrotta ended by thanking all the representatives to the International Council for their engagement that enabled these successes in the current term.

The IC took note of the report by the President and congratulated him for his excellent work during the term and efforts to keep the network functioning under the COVID-19 challenges.

Report of the Vice-President for Divisions

Daniela Kleinschmit presented highlights of the activities by Divisions during the term. Due to the pandemic, Divisions were prompted to find new formats and tools for meetings, resulting in an increase in online activities (e.g., among others, more frequent meetings of Division Coordinators). It came with the benefit of saving carbon emissions and more inclusiveness for participants with limited resources. Communication and active involvement of officeholders were discussed intensively between Division Coordinators, and contributed to a larger learning process. New ideas for cross-divisional activities and collaboration with Task Forces resulted in increased related activities at the 2024 World Congress. D. Kleinschmit highlighted the important work done to improve gender diversity within IUFRO structure, especially through

the introduction of Division Co-Coordinatorship. Geographical diversity will be among the items requiring improvement in the next term. Lastly, she highlighted the increased mentorship opportunities to keep young generations and early career scientists involved in IUFRO, noting that a more systematic mentorship programme will be set up in the next term.

The IC took note of the report by the Vice-President Divisions. The Chair thanked D. Kleinschmit for her presentation and for all her great work during the current term, and wished her all the best in her future role as the 2024-2029 IUFRO President.

Report of the Vice-President for Task Forces

Shirong Liu presented highlights of activities by IUFRO Task Forces during the term. Nine Task Forces (TFs) started the term, and eight will end their term with the 2024 Congress. The management of TFs was adapted due to COVID-19 pandemic as follows:

1) A more flexible timeframe extending from a 2-year to a 5-year term was offered. Eight TFs extended while one (TF on Fire\$: Economic Drivers of Global Wildland Fire Activity) completed its work in 2020. The latest addition, TF on Precision Pest Management (PPM) in Forest Ecosystems started in 2022 and its mandate has been automatically extended by the Board until the end of the next 2024-2029 Board term;

2) Hybrid meeting formats and webinars emerged as the new model for activities, expanding the coverage of audiences and participation in TFs' activities. Five virtual business meetings with TF coordinators were held during the term.

S. Liu emphasized the coordination and communication between TFs and IUFRO HQ, MC and Board. Among the achievements and outcomes, S. Liu highlighted that all TFs succeeded in completing and/or exceeding the set objectives and significantly supported the attainment of IUFRO' s strategic goals and actions. This involves enhancing cross-divisional and interdisciplinary collaboration on emerging issues of great interest to policy makers and stakeholders; reaching out beyond IUFRO and intersecting with other international forest-related processes, initiatives or organizations; well informing on-the-ground forest management practices with synthesized research findings, scientific evidence and technical guidance; focusing on forestry education and cultivation of talents; and emphasizing the gender and geographical balance. Concrete outcomes across all TFs include nearly 150 meetings, workshops, sessions, and seminars organized; over 70 publications including books, chapters, peer review articles, synthesized reviews; and a total of 10 sub-plenary sessions and 35 technical sessions organized (or co-organized) by TFs at the World Congress 2024. S. Liu expressed his gratitude to TF Coordinators for their commitment, diligence and devotion in coordinating activities of the various TFs throughout the term.

Responding to a question about the progress made regarding gender and geographical balance, S. Liu noted that while all TF activities are voluntary and based on common interest of TF members, TFs are increasingly emphasizing issues such as gender diversity and also consider activities in various regions.

The IC took note of the report by the Vice-President Task Forces. The Chair thanked S. Liu for her presentation and for all for all the good work done during the current term.

Report of the Executive Director

Alexander Buck provided highlights from his written report noting that his report had to be considered as a report of the entire IUFRO HQ. He started with describing the excellent host country (Austria) relations and the special legal status as Quasi-International Organization.

As to the staff, IUFRO HQ has grown from 12 to 17 permanent staff members since 2019, to a diverse team with staff from eight countries (Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, Germany, Serbia, Spain and the Philippines), plus a Senior Scientist coordinating the WFSE project from Finland. The staff growth has been due to the expansion of the IUFRO Science-Policy Programme, an additional communications position, support for Directors' Forum, as well as the new partnership projects Teaming Up 4 Forests and European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP).

He presented the overview of members and officeholders in 2024 compared to 2019, noting that the number of officeholders increased significantly (from 761 to 972 officeholders) as did the share of female officeholders (from 26% to 35%). However, there is the continued need to improve diversity, equity and inclusion. The number of Member Organizations had remained stable (630 in 2019 vs 629 in 2024), while the number of Associate Members had grown significantly (from 205 to 279). As regards meetings, the network had responded with remarkable agility and flexibility to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the 29 meetings held in 2020, 112 meetings were held in 2021 and 100 meetings in 2022. Major events included the global fully virtual IUFRO World Day in 2021 and the hybrid All-IUFRO Conference in 2022. A. Buck's highlights also included the work on the Strategy Action Plan 2020-2024 and its evaluation, increased communication activities during the term including the redevelopment of the IUFRO website, and IUFRO's increasingly visible role in international collaboration including the development of the Science-Policy Programme.

Regarding finances and fundraising, A. Buck noted that IUFRO's financial situation is solid and the average total income per year had increased by around 20% from EUR 1.7 Million (period 2014-2018) to EUR 2 Million (period 2019-2023). The number and diversity of major funding partners continued to increase, but there is still a need to further diversify funding sources. While the income from membership fees has increased (amounting to roughly 12% of the total income), the issue with non-paying members requires careful approach.

Several IC members complemented IUFRO HQ for its impressive achievements and engagement during the pandemic years, including with regards to new meeting formats and social media use. Responding to a question on the distribution between Secretariat and Programmes, it was clarified that the Secretariat is mainly funded by membership fees and the Austrian government, while the Programmes and Projects are predominantly supported by specific partners that provide funding for specific activities. Each programme/project is self-financed, without general funding provided through the Secretariat. In response to a question whether there is an amount of budget associated with promoting forest education, it was noted that the next presentation by M. Kleine will partly answer this question.

The Executive Director then invited the Deputy Executive Director and Coordinator of the IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities (IUFRO-SPDC) Michael Kleine to inform the IC about the activities of the IUFRO's Special Programmes, Projects and Initiatives.

IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities, IUFRO-SPDC (Coordinator Michael Kleine)

During the term, there had been a continuous growth annually in the number of participants in the Scientist Assistance Programme Programme (SAP), leading up to the Congress (in total 170 SAP supported persons between 2020-2024). From the total number, 49% of the participants were from Asia, 28% from Africa and 23% from Latin America. By gender: 54% women and 46% men were selected. The Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP) for the 2024 Congress included 110 fully-funded participants who were selected from a total of 1,400

applications: 60 of these also participated in the pre-Congress training workshops at the SLU Campus in Uppsala, Sweden. During the term, 9 interactive workshops with a total of 278 participants were organized on topics such as scientific methods, systematic review, science-society interaction and forest landscape restoration as a multi-disciplinary subject. Thematic Networking activities included FLR-CD in Malawi and Sri Lanka; Restoration Education (BIMSTEC Region); RFFL in Kyrgyz Republic / Uzbekistan; FLR Outreach through two GLFx Chapters and eight new publications plus six translations. The expenditures of the programme from 2020-2024 amounted to a total of (rounded) 2.5 Million EUR. Through these capacity development initiatives, IUFRO works towards increasing inclusion and diversity. Responding to a previous question, he noted that there is no support for students within the SPDC as there are many scholarships available to support them, and thus the programme focuses on early-career researchers.

IUFRO Science-Policy Programme, SciPol (Coordinator Christoph Wildburger)

SciPol involves eight IUFRO HQ staff members regularly contributing to the programme's activities. Three main Work Streams: Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP); Follow-up studies; and Regional activities. Highlights included the launch of two global GFEP assessment reports: "Forests and poverty" (2020) and "Forests and Trees for Human Health", (2023); publishing of two follow-up studies: REDD+ (2022) and International Forest Governance (2024); and three regional assessment briefs. Latest activities include the initiation of a new global GFEP assessment on Forests for Social and Economic Resilience (to be published in 2025). Impacts of the work include considerable international media attention; use of reports and policy briefs as briefing documents for negotiators, guidance for strategic policy development, information sources for scientists, academics, and communicators, and teaching materials; and inputs to the UN HLPF, UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC etc. The expenditures from 2020-2024 amount to a total of (rounded) 3.34 Million EUR.

In response to a question examples of impact of SciPol reports to policy processes, the Deputy Coordinator of SciPol noted that the full reports and policy briefs are taken to policy forums for distribution and well-attended side events have been organized to launch these reports (e.g., the side event of the latest update study on international forest governance at the 19th session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF19) was moved to a plenary room due to high interest.

IUFRO Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment, IUFRO-WFSE (Coordinator Pia Katila)

Main outcome of the term had been a comprehensive peer-reviewed open access book by Oxford University Press "Restoring forests for sustainable development – Policies, practices, impacts and ways forward" (2024), engaging 68 authors and 25 peer reviewers. Additionally, articles in Forest Policy and Economics, Special Issue with International Forestry Review (in progress) on socioeconomic, political and cultural aspects of forest restoration, and a joint publication with IUFRO-SPDC "Governance of Forest Landscape Restoration – Analyses of Governance Issues in Cases from Ghana and India". Event highlights: side event at High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2020); panel discussion at Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) Climate (2021); joint side event with Rainforest Alliance and World Conservation Society at COP26 (2021); side event at the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC) 2022; round table discussion at the IUFRO Division 8 Forest Environment Conference (2023); and a Sub-Plenary session and two 'Short oral by poster' sessions at the World Congress 2024. Impacts: forests and FLR are important in advancing towards the goals of the global environmental agreements and processes as well as SDGs – the major publication, related

briefs and articles provide information for these processes, and support regional and national forest restoration and sustainable development. The publication also identifies important information needs and knowledge gaps in current scientific and practical knowledge. WFSE is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) and coordinated in Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE).

IUFRO Special Programme Directors' Forum, SPDF (Coordinator Peter Mayer)

SPDF brings together heads of forest research institutes and deans of forest faculties and provides a platform for exchange and development of views on the management of forest research and strategic research priorities (including challenges such as organization, funding and financing, personnel, agenda setting, reporting, documentation etc.). The coordination is supported by a global core-group that provides strategic guidance, consisting of six heads of IUFRO member organizations. The pandemic significantly impacted the planning of the SPDF meetings and work, and introduced a shift towards increased online exchanges. Event highlights include: three meetings with heads of member organizations at the virtual IUFRO World Day 2021 focusing on how multidisciplinary approaches can increase impact of research outcomes, and a hybrid SPDF session at the All-IUFRO Conference 2022 on communication of research. Events planned at the World Congress 2024: Sub-Plenary session "Leadership for Sustainability", discussing innovative approaches in managing forest research, and an informal meeting of the SPDF.

Given the challenges in running the programme effectively (including challenges related to its membership, organization of meetings, identifying focus areas across the different regions, and limited resources including leadership), there have been recent discussions on the future of the SPDF. As a result, it has been suggested focusing on contributing to strengthening science-policy interface through supporting regional forest research leadership. The Board, at its 63rd meeting in June 2024 in Uppsala, Sweden, has thus decided to terminate the Special Programme Directors' Forum (SPDF) in its current form and asked the incoming IUFRO President, in collaboration with IUFRO HQ, to prepare a detailed concept note for the next phase of the SPDF for review and approval by the Board at its next meeting in May 2025.

The IC took note of the reports by the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director.

5. Presentation of new IC Chair, Vice-Chairs (i.e. President, Vice-Presidents of IUFRO) and members of the IUFRO Board

Document:

- *IC 6/2024 Doc 5.1: Compilation of Terms of Reference of Enlarged Board Members and officeholders (IUFRO HQ);*

The Chair presented to the IC the incoming members of the IUFRO voting Board 2024-2029. He noted that they were also invited to observe the current IC meeting, depending on their availability. The Chair invited the incoming IUFRO Vice-Presidents and the IUFRO President to present themselves briefly to the IC and elaborate on their plans for the incoming term.

IUFRO Vice-President for Task Forces 2024-2029

Elena Paoletti (CNR IRET, Italy) introduced herself noting that in addition to being a Deputy Coordinator of Division 8, she has served in two important capacities in the current term – as the Chair of the Congress Scientific Committee (CSC 2024) and as the Chair of the IUFRO

Honours and Awards Committee (HAC). She pointed out the importance of Task Forces, the ongoing submission process of new Task Force proposals (with a 1 September deadline) and the following evaluation process by the IUFRO Board. The new Task Forces will be approved in early 2025 and the Coordinators will be invited to join the 64th IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting in May 2025 in Vienna, Austria. She stressed that the Task Forces will be temporary and must be policy-relevant. In her role as the Vice-President, she aims to enhance the interaction and communication between Task Forces, Divisions and IUFRO HQ.

IUFRO Vice-President for Divisions 2024-2029

Woodam Chung (Oregon State University, USA) introduced himself noting that he was born and raised in South Korea, and has been teaching and conducting research at the UBC in Canada before joining Oregon State University. He has been the Coordinator of Division 3 for two terms (10 years) and representative of Divisions to the IUFRO Management Committee in the current term. He is fully committed to his responsibilities as the Vice-President, and his plans include establishment and coordination of an IUFRO DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Committee, and setting up a virtual orientation process for the new officeholders in the Network. His aims also include creating a systematic PhD network in IUFRO and encouraging increased engagement of Divisional officeholders.

IUFRO President 2024-2029

Daniela Kleinschmit (University of Freiburg, Germany) thanked IC for its support and trust in her, and noted that she is a forester with social science background, having worked in Göttingen University (Germany) and SLU (Sweden). In her current institution, the University of Freiburg (Germany), she has been serving as the Dean of the Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources, and as the Vice-President of the university for Internationalization and Sustainability. In the current Board term, she has served as the Vice-President for Divisions. Her work will be guided by the further development of the Strategy as one of the major tasks in the next years. Two concrete goals include:

- a) addressing and strengthening the science-policy interactions. While IUFRO is already highly acknowledged in forest policy arenas, there is more potential for engagement in other, forest-related international policy arenas. Additionally, there is a need for more scientific understanding and informed-decision making at the regional level and processes – therefore a shift for regional science-policy interactions is planned through the next phase of the Directors' Forum; and
- b) diversifying IUFRO and officeholders in terms of gender and geography. It is planned to have more activities in the regions currently underrepresented in IUFRO, especially in Africa. The next World Congress in Nairobi in 2029 will offer opportunity to engage more officeholders from Africa. The Chair of the 2029 Congress Scientific Committee has already been selected – Ernest Foli from Ghana. Among the additional goals is to institutionalize IUFRO mentorship programme and increase the number of PhD conferences. It will also be important for her to figure out how to make the best use and engage the IC during the next term.

The IC took note of the presentations by the new IC Chair and Vice-Chairs and wished them all the best for the next five years.

6. Future policy and orientation of IUFRO (post-2024 Strategy Action Plan)

On behalf of the Chair of the IUFRO Strategy Action Plan 2020-2024 Evaluation Advisory Committee, Mónica Gabay, IUFRO Operations Manager Andre Purret presented the summary report of the work of the committee including findings and recommendations. The committee had been tasked with: a) assessing, both qualitatively and quantitatively, the implementation of the Action Plan, based on the inputs submitted in 2021, 2023, and 2024 by the IUFRO Divisions, Task Forces, SPPs and IUFRO HQ; b) analyzing and evaluating the overall implementation of the Action Plan by IUFRO; c) preparing a summary report of the work and findings from the evaluation, including recommendations for developing a proposal for the post-2024 Strategy Action Plan; and d) presenting the findings from the analysis to the MC and the Enlarged Board. The methodology for evaluation included the following various steps: synthesis of developments and trends for each action by IUFRO HQ; review of the synthesis, scoring and recommendations for each action by the committee; aggregation and average scores for each action/objective by IUFRO HQ; virtual meetings of the committee to reach consensus on the summary statements, scores and recommendations; and drafting of the summary report by the committee's Chair with support by HQ, followed by review and fine-tuning of the report. A. Purret then briefly presented the spider-web diagrams mapping the average scores for actions under nine objectives, grouped by the three institutional goals.

In conclusion, good progress had been made in the overall implementation of the goals related to IUFRO's core elements of scientific excellence (Goal 1) and impact (Goal 3), while more work was needed on the goal related to the networking (Goal 2). Suggestions from the committee included: revising 36 actions (of the total 55); further discussion on potential modifications for eight actions; deletion of six actions due to either being completed or their implementation being not feasible nor practical; specific suggestions related to indicators and actors responsible; and re-consideration of the format of the current Action Plan for the next term. As the next steps, the IUFRO Board had approved the establishment of a IUFRO Strategy Committee tasked with preparing a draft proposal for a Strategy Action Plan 2025-2029. The Chair of the committee will be selected in the next step, followed by identification of members of the committee. Following an inclusive development process, the draft proposal for the Action Plan will be presented to the Enlarged Board at its next meeting in May 2025.

Responding to a question about the format of the next Strategy Action Plan, it was noted that it could be a consolidated version of the current Action Plan, where actions/strategic directions are grouped, enabling a more flexible implementation and reporting. In response to another question on whether an external expert review of achievements could have been beneficial to the review process, it was noted that the committee had discussed inviting external expert as a committee member, but did not in the end do that as very good knowledge of IUFRO and its internal functioning was considered to be the most important criteria for any committee member. This suggestion can of course be considered by the Strategy Committee.

7. Stockholm Congress Statement

Document:

- *IC 6/2024 Doc 7.1: Draft Stockholm Congress Statement*

The President presented to the IC the draft Stockholm Congress Statement, noting that it aligns with the Congress title "Forests and Society towards 2050" (and the associated five themes

and subthemes), and addresses both the role of forests in 2050 and how scientists may contribute to this future. The statement is global in scope and written so that its messages are easily understood by the general public, including decision- and policy-makers. The development process engaged various units and bodies within IUFRO, e.g., the Congress Scientific Committee (CSC) and Congress Organizing Committee (COC), plus the stakeholders from the Nordic and Baltic countries. The final draft was reviewed by the Management Committee at its meeting on 18 June 2024, and discussed and endorsed by the Board at its meeting on 19-20 June 2024.

The President then invited any urgent feedback on the statement. One delegate noted that the current text is a result of a clear bottom-up drafting process that involved various stages and bodies within IUFRO, resulting in a well-drafted statement that could be considered final. Another IC representative commented on the term “education” referred to in the section on the call to decision-makers, forest managers and business representatives. It was suggested adding “inclusive” in front of the word “education”. Lastly, it was suggested writing out Artificial Intelligence instead of the abbreviation “AI” that may lead to confusion.

The President invited the IC to approve the final version of the Stockholm Congress Statement with the two proposed edits, and tabled the following motion:

MOTION 3:

- The IUFRO International Council to approve the final version of the Stockholm Congress Statement with the two proposed edits;

Seconded by M.A. Ngo Bieng (Costa Rica).

The motion was carried unanimously.

It was further clarified that the number of participants and a number of countries referred to in the preamble will be updated according to the final Congress registration figures. The approved and finalized statement will be communicated to the media and presented to the Congress delegates at the Closing Ceremony of the Congress on Saturday, 29 June 2024.

8. Venue of the XXVII IUFRO World Congress 2029

The recommendation by the IUFRO Board in favour of Nairobi, Kenya to host the next IUFRO World Congress in 2029 was voted on and approved by the International Council by an electronic ballot vote in mid-2023. The Chair of the meeting invited the representative of Kenya to the International Council to inform the IC about the venue/host country of Congress 2029. Jane Njuguna, Acting Director of the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) and the Acting Chair of the Congress Organizing Committee (COC 2029) conveyed appreciation on behalf of Kenya to the International Council for having selected Nairobi as the host of the 27th IUFRO World Congress in 2029. She continued by noting that the Kenyan government through Cabinet approval, as well as various institutions in Kenya and Africa are fully supporting the planning for the Congress. Kenya currently has about 8 per cent of forest cover, with an aim to increase this to 30 per cent by 2029 through various investments. J. Njuguna added that Nairobi is also the fourth home of the United Nations, hosting different UN agencies including the global headquarters for the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). In her closing, she ensured the readiness of Kenya to host the 2029 Congress and welcomed partners from within and beyond the IUFRO network. A promotional video for the 2029 Congress was shown, introducing Kenya and inviting participants to Nairobi was shown. The

IC complimented Kenya for their presentation.

9. Honours and Awards: Honorary Membership

Document:

- *IC 06/2024 Doc 9.1: Nominations for IUFRO Honorary Membership (IUFRO HQ)*

Honorary Membership is the highest Award in IUFRO, acknowledging persons who have rendered particularly important and outstanding services to IUFRO. The Chair informed the IC that, following a recommendation from the Management Committee, the IUFRO Board had evaluated the nominations and recommended to the International Council to approve two candidates for IUFRO Honorary Membership. The nomination of Mike Wingfield, Immediate Past President of IUFRO, had been made by Daniela Kleinschmit, the Vice-President Divisions, and seconded by Shirong Liu, the Vice-President Task Forces. The nomination of Björn Hånell, former Vice-President Divisions, had been made Jens Peter Skovsgaard, Coordinator of Division 1, seconded by Woodam Chung, Coordinator of Division 3. There were no comments by the IC and the Chair proposed the following two motions:

MOTION 4:

- Following a recommendation by the IUFRO Board, the IC to approve the nomination of Professor Mike Wingfield as Honorary Member of IUFRO;

Seconded by M. Tomé (Portugal).

The motion was carried unanimously.

MOTION 5:

- Following a recommendation by the IUFRO Board, the IC to approve the nomination of Professor Björn Hånell as Honorary Member of IUFRO;

Seconded by R.C. Burns (USA).

The motion was carried unanimously.

As in past Congresses, Honorary Memberships will be presented to M. Wingfield and B. Hånell during the Closing Ceremony of the XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024.

10. Any other business and closure of the meeting

The Chair invited the IC to discuss any other business, raised by representatives to the International Council. A question was raised about the process for nominating new representatives to the International Council. IUFRO HQ responded that the call for nominations will open in early September. It was requested that IUFRO HQ circulates the call for nominations together with the list of members by countries. No other items were raised.

Action 1:

- *IUFRO HQ to circulate a list of members by countries together with the call for nominations for the representatives to the IUFRO International Council 2024-2029;*

J. Parrotta as the Chair of the meeting thanked the IC members for their participation and contributions to the discussions. He presented special thanks to S. Liu, outgoing Vice-President for Task Forces, and closed the meeting.

ANNEX 1: PARTICIPATING IC REPRESENTATIVES

Number	COUNTRY	NAME
1	ARMENIA	Areg Karapetyan
2	AUSTRALIA	Mark Brown
3	AUSTRIA	Peter Mayer
4	BELGIUM	Joris Van Acker
5	BENIN	Chabi Djangoun
6	BRAZIL	Joberto Veloso de Freitas
7	CANADA	Danny Galarneau
8	CHINA	Bin Xu*
9	COSTA RICA	Mare Ange Ngo Bieng
10	CROATIA	Sanja Perić
11	DENMARK	Vivian Kvist Johannsen
12	ESTONIA	Hardi Tullus
13	FINLAND	Anne Toppinen
14	FRANCE	Alexia Stokes
15	GERMANY	Matthias Dieter
16	HUNGARY	Ferenc Lakatos
17	INDIA	Manisha Thapliyal*
18	INDONESIA	Naresworo Nugroho*
19	ITALY	Anna Barbati
20	JAPAN	Tohru Nakashizuka
21	KENYA	Jane Njuguna
22	MADAGASCAR	Bruno Ramamonjisoa
23	NETHERLANDS	Bas Arts
24	NORWAY	Hans Fredrik Hoen
25	PHILIPPINES	Marilyn S. Combalicer
26	POLAND	Krzysztof Sterenczak
27	PORTUGAL	Maria Margarida Tavares Tomé
28	ROMANIA	Nicolae-Ovidiu Badea
29	SERBIA	Sasa Orlovic
30	SLOVAKIA	Rastislav Sulek
31	SOUTH AFRICA	Bernard Slippers*
32	SPAIN	Cesar Pérez Cruzado
33	SWEDEN	Björn Hånell
34	SWITZERLAND	Andreas Rigling
35	UKRAINE	Oleksandr Soshenskyi*
36	UNITED KINGDOM	Chris Quine
37	UNITED STATES	Robert C. Burns

** Nominated substitutes were attending on behalf of China, India, Indonesia, South Africa and Ukraine.*