

IUFRO Special Programmes, Project and Initiatives

Report on Achievements in 2024 and Plans for 2025

MC 10/2024 Doc 6.1

1. Special Programme for Development of Capacities (IUFRO-SPDC)

<p>Highlights in 2024</p>	<p>Congress Scientist Assistance Program (SAP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A total of 106 applicants</u> were selected for sponsorship (54% women and 46% men), representing 47 countries: 18 in Africa, 17 in Asia-Pacific, 11 in Latin America and the Caribbean and 1 country in Eastern Europe. • <u>Contributing donors:</u> Swedish Government Research Council for Sustainable Development (Formas) through SLU, United States Forest Service, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the National Institute of Forest Science, Republic of Korea, and the Audemars-Watkins Foundation. <p>Pre-Congress Workshop Week: 54 early- and mid-career scientists with approved SAP sponsorship participated in the Pre-Congress Workshop Week, at SLU-Ultuna Campus, Uppsala from 19-22 June 2024. The objective was to enhance essential skills for generating high-quality research results and effectively transferring scientific knowledge to policy and practice through the following three courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Methods in Forest Science • Systematic Evidence Evaluation in Forest Science • Science-Society Interactions: Making Science Work for Policy and Practice <p>Thematic Networking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Exhibition Space was organised to showcase IUFRO-SPDC projects on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) from around the world. Visitors could meet, share experiences and insights on capacity building, multi-stakeholder process, training, mentorship, technical approaches, curricula and teaching methods, amongst others. • Four sessions during the Congress' lunch breaks were held addressing FLR governance, implementation, facilitation, and restoration education with short presentations complemented by discussions and networking. <p>Video on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X941KwIDQ9k&t=4s</p> <p>Publications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Dimensions of Forest Landscape Restoration • Global Teak Resources and Market Assessment 2022 • Resilient Future Forest Guidebook • Forest Landscape Restoration: A Practitioner's Guide (Russian version)
<p>Plans for 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientist Assistance programme: 30 scientists • Thematic networking projects in Malawi and Sri Lanka (upscaling FLR through field-based capacity building) • Workshop Enhancing Human Dimensions of FLR
<p>Finances</p>	<p>Expenditures 2024: EUR 856,000.00 Budget Plans 2025: EUR 500,000.00</p>

2. Science-Policy Programme (SciPol)

<p>Highlights in 2024</p>	<p>Study on International Forest Governance (publication & outreach):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of the follow-up study “International Forest Governance: A critical review of trends, drawbacks, and new approaches” and its accompanying policy brief during a side event at the 19th session of the UN Forum on Forests (side event webcast; side event summary by IISD). The event achieved top-tier media coverage around the world, including coverage by BBC, Forbes, AFP, El Tiempo, Scientific American, Nature, etc., reaching an estimated total audience of almost 206 million people (see media coverage report). • Arrangement of a globally focused and a regionally focused outreach sessions at the XXVI IUFRO World Congress in Stockholm, Sweden. • Further outreach activities will be conducted until the end of 2024, including at CBD COP16 and UNFCCC COP29 meetings. <p>Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) Assessment on Forests for Social and Economic Resilience (continuation):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following a virtual Scoping Meeting, the Terms of Reference for the new GFEP assessment on Forests for Social and Economic Resilience were finalised. The Expert Panel consists of 14 leading scientists (nine of which are women) from 10 different countries, including eight Members from economically disadvantaged countries. • 1st Expert Panel Meeting took place virtually on 6-7 June 2024. • 2nd Expert Panel Meeting held in person on 8-9 October in Rome, Italy. • A peer review of the chapter drafts is planned for Nov.-Dec. 2024. <p>Director’s Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration into the Science-Policy Programme following its termination as a Special Programme (Motion 5, IUFRO Board Meeting June 2024). • Beginning of the development of a detailed concept aiming to strengthen the science-policy interface through supporting regional forest research with a special focus on Europe and Africa. To implement the associated activities, a new position has been created with funding from the Eva Mayr-Stihl Foundation (Project Manager, 36 h/week). • Several activities organized, including: Core group meetings (27 and 28 February), Session “Leadership for Sustainability: Overcoming Challenges in Forest Research” at IUFRO World Congress (25 June), Informal Meeting of the Directors Forum (25 June), initial exchanges on regional activities with two focus groups (26 September), and in-depth exchanges on regional activities with two focus groups mid-November.
<p>Plans for 2025</p>	<p>Ongoing GFEP Assessment [Resilience] (finalisation, publication & outreach):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd Expert Panel Meeting to address peer review comments. • Publication of the assessment and its policy brief planned for mid-2025. <p>Director’s Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a detailed concept note for the next phase for review and approval by the Board at its next meeting (May 2025). • Organization of the first regional meeting.
<p>Finances</p>	<p>Expenditures 2024: 810,642.90 EUR Budget Plans 2025: 185,975.60 EUR (confirmed) + 200,000.00 EUR (tbc)</p>

3. World Forestry, Society and Environment (IUFRO-WFSE)

<p>Highlights in 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in IUFRO World Congress in Stockholm, June 2024. In the congress WFSE organized the sub-plenary <i>Restoring forests and trees: Balancing goals, interests and tradeoffs</i> (panel discussion with moderated discussion, including questions/comments from the audience) and the related Short oral by poster session, with seven presentations. - Two WFSE editorial meetings in connection with the World Congress for planning the next phase. - Publishing the peer reviewed open access book <i>Restoring Forests and Trees for Sustainable Development: Policies, Practices, Impacts, and Ways Forward</i> with Oxford University Press (https://doi.org/10.1093/9780197683958.001.0001). The development of the book involved altogether 68 authors including the 6 editors of the book. - Dissemination information about the book. - Initiation of the planning of the next topic, including the development of the concept note and tentative structure of the book. Identification and contacting of possible experts to act as the lead authors of the different chapters. Finalization of the group of editors and lead authors for developing the book with the working title <i>Forests and people in global transformational changes</i>. - Organization of a two-day in person (hybrid) workshop for the editors and lead authors of the book in Finland in December 2024.
<p>Plans for 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further development of the next publication including editorial guidance in technical aspects, coordination of the commenting of the chapter drafts by editors, communications with the lead authors of each chapter, identification of potential peer-reviewers for each chapter and organizing the review process. Coordination of the revision of the chapters.
<p>Finances</p>	<p>Expenditures 2024: EUR 100 000 Budget Plans 2025: EUR 100 000</p>

4. Teaming Up 4 Forests

<p>Highlights in 2024</p>	<p>The science-business platform TEAMING UP 4 FORESTS continued to grow in 2024 and delivered major outputs. Highlights in 2024 include:</p> <p>Publications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of a new study report on “Europe’s wood supply in disruptive times” as IUFRO World Series Volume 42 • Business brief on wood supply in Europe • Factsheet about wood supply in Europe <p>All publications can be found at https://teamingup4forests.com/wood-supply-study/</p> <p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar series with three webinars: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Study launch webinar on wood supply in Europe 2) Political leadership for sustainable wood supply 3) Exploring innovation and technology • Subplenary session at the IUFRO World Congress 2024 “Scaling up the exchange between science and business” • Study launch at Fastmarkets Conference in Istanbul and press breakfast for Austrian media in Vienna <p>Communication, media and outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a partnership strategy document for next phase • Media articles and press releases about the study publication • Growth of network and outreach to potential new partners • Launch of new partnership video
<p>Plans for 2025</p>	<p>The first phase of the partnership started in 2021 and will be completed in the end of 2024. The partnership plans to enter into a new phase in the beginning of 2025. Preparations for this second phase are already ongoing. The plans for 2025 include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entering second three-year partnership agreement with Mondi • Expansion of partnership through involvement of new business partners • Expansion of network, thematic focus, geographic reach • Carrying out new science-business-stakeholder events and studies • Growing into a global science-business platform with multiple partners • Enhancing impact of science in the private sector
<p>Finances</p>	<p>Expenditures 2024: 172 739 EUR to date / 285 889 EUR until end of year Budget Plans 2025: 200 000 EUR funding by Mondi plus potential additional funding by new partners joining the platform</p>

5. Wood For Globe

<p>Highlights in 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>CPF SW4SW Policy Dialogue, Advancing sustainable wood policy and science for carbon-neutral and resilient economies</i> on 25 March 2024 as a hybrid event with 161 participants online and 30 in person • IUFRO Congress – FCN session S5.2 “Convincing or compelling? Powerful sustainability communication to shape a future with more wooden buildings” promoted sustainable wood awareness and included Wood for Globe Results • Scientific background paper coordinated by BOKU is available online and scientists have presented the expertise in various scientific events and Wood for Globe policy dialogues. Key messages and recommendations summary available separately. • <i>High-Level Dialogue WOOD for GLOBE: Leading Pathways to carbon neutrality and resilience</i> on 19 July 2024 with hybrid participation of 100 in-person and 300 online participants, including high-level representatives of countries, heads of forestry/ technical experts, representatives of various stakeholders, organizations and initiatives, culminated in an outcome statement calling for scaling-up sustainable wood-based pathways • High policy impact of the project, demonstrated by the inclusion of the Wood for Globe outcome statement in COFO 27 and its proceedings <p>All outputs available at: https://www.iufro.org/science/partnership-projects/wood-for-globe/</p>
<p>Plans for 2025</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Finances</p>	<p>Expenditures 2024: EUR 250 000 Budget Plans 2025: EUR 0</p>

6. Wood-Pop

<p>Highlights in 2024</p>	<p>Since December 2023, the Secretariat of the European Wood Policy Platform is hosted in the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the work is funded by the Austrian Forest Fund. The European Wood Policy Platform brings together governments, regional and stakeholder organization as well as research as a forum for multilateral policy, knowledge and experience Exchange. IUFRO will bring in its scientific network helping to provide policy options and will build synergies with the Wood For Globe project.</p> <p>The WoodPoP Secretariat includes two project staff: Coordinator of the Secretariat, Veronika Juch (28 hours) Junior Policy Officer, Care Jackelyn Linayao (16 hours)</p> <p>Organisation of Meetings of the European Policy Platform (selection)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Wood Policy Lab, 3. -5 July 2024, Traunkirchen, Austria – Study Tour and Expert Group Meeting, 10. -11. September 2024, Oslo, Norway – High Level Meeting, 6 November 2024, Brussels, Belgium – Wood Innovation Conference, 7 November 2024, Brussels, Belgium – Education in the Wood Construction Sector, 4 December, Innsbruck, Austria <p>Preparation and forthcoming endorsement of the Policy Paper ‘A wood-based circular bioeconomy for a sustainable Europe. Green construction and innovative wood solutions’.</p> <p>Outreach and Communication: Launch of the Homepage (woodpop.eu), a virtual collaborative platform and a dedicated newsletter, development of a graphical identity, production of short videos from the meetings</p>
<p>Plans for 2025</p>	<p>Outreach activities based on the policy paper (possible webinar series) Organization of the annual High Level Meeting Preparation of country leaflets with key data on wood use, production and the value chain Mapping exercise of national public procurement activities in support of wood use Organization of a wood innovation workshop Organization of a pan-European wood construction price</p>
<p>Finances</p>	<p>Expenditures 2024: 135.000 EUR Budget Plans 2025: 145.000 EUR</p>